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Daily Report
Supplement

Near East & South Asia

International Conference on Population & Development

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5 September

Egypt's Mubarak Addresses Opening Session

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[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the opening session of the International Conference on Population and Development at the Cheops Hall of the Cairo International Conference Center—live]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations; heads and members of delegation; ladies and gentlemen: I thank you for your noble feelings for me and for Egypt and its people. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for electing me chairman of this historic conference which I hope will add to man's struggle for a better world. I express my deepest appreciation of and respect for you and your countries in my statement which, with your permission, I will now read to your venerable conference. [applause]

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate; Your Excellencies heads of states and governments; Mr. UN Secretary General; heads and members of delegations; ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the good land of Egypt, the cradle of civilization and the land of peace. This peaceful country has throughout history acted as a bridge for communication, which blends all the cultures of the world and links its people. It has enriched the march of mankind with a creative mixture of noble humanitarian values, to which the dialogue and fertile interaction among the different civilizations on this eternal soil have contributed for over 7,000 years.

Welcome to the city of Cairo, the capital of the Arabs and Africans, the city of 1,000 minarets, in whose skies the beacons of Islam and church spires embrace, radiate tolerance and amity, and light with faith the efforts of the Egyptian man in this blessed valley, whose soil has been anointed with the illuminated words of the Holy Koran, the Bible, and the Torah.

Welcome to a state which, since the dawn of history, has taken part in the march of human progress, as when it invented farming, advocated monotheism, first recorded history, registered battles, and turned its relationship with the Nile River into a unique model that embodies affinity and accord between man and his environment as much as it embodies the sound relationship between resources and the population.

Welcome to modern Egypt, which is making the utmost possible contributions to the march of human struggle for a safer future with justice, equality, and solidarity for humanity.

Ladies and gentlemen, your decision to select Egypt as a venue for this important international conference is highly appreciated by the Egyptian people, who view this selection as a good gesture on the part of the world community and its international organization. This gesture reflects recognition of the role Egypt plays in the service of peace, development, and progress.

We hope that this conference held here on Egyptian soil will constitute a significant turning point that takes into consideration the unity of human destiny on our planet. Regardless of the distances that separate us and the differences in terms of progress among the different regions of the earth, we share the same destiny and face the same challenges, which are growing harder and fiercer all over the earth.

The world has become a small village, not only because of the astounding development in the means and instruments of communication but also because the hazards engulfing the world's inhabitants have taken on a universal dimension that goes beyond the borders of homelands and continents. It is now impossible for a society to be fully secure from these hazards.

We hope the convocation of this conference in Cairo on the threshold of the 21st century will constitute a meeting point for human civilizations, an arena for reconciliation between man and his environment, and a bridge that connects the North and the South, the East and the West, and coordinates and integrates everybody's efforts in a harmonious entity that observes justice, maintains values, and preserves the principles established by heavenly religions to distinguish between good and evil, the allowed and the forbidden, and the permissible and the impermissible.

We want this conference to constitute a historic turning point in the record of coordinated human efforts to face the challenges of a new age; an age that carries with it great hopes for a safer and more just world, as much as it carries grave hazards that are hard to cope with if humans are controlled by a unilateral vision that ignores the fact that we live on the same planet and that human progress must be comprehensive in order to balance an unbalanced world structure that lacks the necessary factors needed for social stability.

Demographic statistics show that a minority of our contemporary world population lives in high-income states, where there are 822 million people with an average income exceeding $20,000. In contrast, 3 billion people whose average income does not exceed $350 are crowded into countries that suffer from a shortage of resources, low production, and a lack of human development techniques. However, the issue has other implications, because 15 percent of the planet's population gets 75 percent of its income.

These figures raise several important questions that cause concern. In the meantime we require joint action to change this picture by creating a more cooperative world community that is more capable of coping with future challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen, we do not want this conference to be a mere third conference on population that adds quantitative accomplishments to those of the two earlier ones—

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in Bucharest in 1974 and Mexico in 1984—both of which had important accomplishments that cannot be belittled. We want this conference to mark a historic transformation in the human view of the population problem. This view should see the problem in its correct perspective since we all share the same actions and destiny on this planet, which is facing unprecedented challenges dictated by the rapid and enormous changes in the second half of the 20th century. These changes have sped up the issues connected to the population explosion.

The significance of this conference lies in the fact that it is being held in a new world climate in which the human community's aspirations soar higher in pursing a different world order characterized by peace, justice, and cooperation, in spite of the bloody tragedies our contemporary world still experiences and the great fears that still concern many people. These people fear that they might lag behind in the march of human development due to the lack of justice that would enable all to be partners in the march toward progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to express my vision of this conference, its tasks, and the objectives it should pursue on a number of important points. Although it is a personal vision, it reflects the aspirations of many people. People look to this conference as it convenes at a decisive time, a time that requires us to contribute more thought and action in the context of our distinct and honest understanding of the fact that we share the same destiny and future. These points are:

1. At this important juncture in the history of human progress this conference should respond to the hopes the people of the world pin on it. It has to develop a joint humanitarian vision that enhances mankind's march of progress, establishes the concepts of peace, justice, and cooperation, and upholds the values of work and virtue.

The right starting point in developing this joint human vision might be for us all to concede that the conference's outcome and recommendations must be the sum total of the free discussion and open dialogue that go on during the sessions, away from any rigid commitment to preconceptions that were not submitted for discussion in the conference hall.

In our opinion, the results of the conference and the fulfillment of its aims depend on the creative interchange of diverse views in a free dialogue that seeks common ground among the various stances to ensure that the recommendations of the conference will serve the human community's interests. In this way they will provide justice and equal opportunity to every country and every nation, however small and poor in resources.

We here belong to diverse civilizations, disparate cultures, and heavenly callings and teachings that we must honor. Hence, a free and democratic interchange of views is indispensable to our quest for a common human ground that can unite us in the midst of this immense diversity.

2. To reach this common human ground we need a free dialogue governed by a spirit of solidarity, a sense of collective responsibility, a desire to be open to the views of others, and prior acknowledgement that no party alone can claim knowledge of the whole truth.

Our dialogue must be a process of give and take, reflecting the harmonious intercourse among civilizations. The greatest risk would be for us to lose sight of our aim and method, turning the dialogue into preordained ideas that some parties seek to dictate to all the others. Another risk would be to let the dialogue turn into an acute polarization between the countries of the North and those of the South, or between the rich countries and the developing ones, hurling us into an endless maze of disputes that will dissipate our efforts, fragment our unity, and paralyze our ability to face the existing tremendous and fierce dangers that cut across the boundaries of languages, homelands, and continents, threatening the whole of human existence.

3. We firmly believe that there is no contradiction between religion and science, spirit and matter, or between the requirements of modernization and the need to preserve tradition. This is true because a sound human life proceeds from a harmonious amalgamation of all these factors and because a human being cannot attain tranquillity, security, and happiness, or even fulfill his humanity without a balanced fulfillment of his spiritual and physical needs.

4. Any recommendations made by this conference will be put to use for the good of all societies in line with each society's own circumstances, basic beliefs, and to the degree that those recommendations agree with its heavenly laws, religious values, its philosophical outlook on issues, and its opinion as to what constitutes its interest. Here I would like to refer to the UN Economic and Social Council's Resolution No. 1991 of 1993, which explicitly stated the need to respect every country's sovereignty and its right to draw up population policies and implement them in a way harmonious with its culture, values, and traditions and with its social, economic, and political circumstances. Such policies must also be in agreement with the concept of human rights and the responsibility of individuals, families, and groups.

5. It will be useful for us not to look upon this Cairo conference as a separate event unconnected with many other past and future international efforts to discuss other aspects of the problems that humanity faces. I give as an example the 1992 Environment and Development Conference and also future summit conferences on social development, women's affairs, and human settlements. These diverse international efforts must be placed in one framework because our planet's problems are now so complex and entangled that we need an integrated and advanced outlook that will help us to find and implement sound solutions.

Ladies and gentlemen, perhaps it will be sufficient for us to list some important facts to realize the difficult times through which our world is passing. Five and a half billion

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people live on our planet, and this increases by approximately 90 million every year. What makes the situation more complicated is that three quarters of these people are crowded in developing countries whose combined income amounts to only 15 percent of global wealth.

According to internationally accepted statistics, 500 million of these countries' residents are unemployed. There simply are no jobs for them. More seriously, their unemployment deprives them of any social life, this being the worst and most detrimental consequence of unemployment.

The majority of this bloc of countries, particularly in Africa, are also burdened with debt and the interest on it. Africa's combined foreign debts amount to $285 billion.

Several countries in this bloc are suffering a food scarcity as a result of drought and desertification.

In these developing societies half a million women die annually from pregnancy-related causes. This represents a risk 200 times greater than that faced by European women.

All these phenomena make it necessary to exert more intensive efforts to remedy the population problem and restrain population growth in line with heavenly laws and religious values. The aim is to attain a reasonable population growth rate in the future.

All the world's countries—the rich more so than the poor—have a collective responsibility in this endeavor. This is not only because we are all human beings living in one world with a collective duty to cooperate or because some of the developing countries' problems are caused by the lack of justice inherent in their dealings with the advanced world. There is a third cause, perhaps the most dangerous to our world. The negative effects of the population explosion are extreme, including higher emigration rates, violence, disease, and the continuing deterioration of the environment that has adverse consequences for everyone.

Our world's population problem cannot be properly solved by remedying the demographic factor alone. It must be solved in close connection with the issues of social, economic, and cultural development. This development seeks to improve people's capabilities and to involve the largest possible number in the cycle of production and consumption.

All this must be done according to a careful calculation of the relationship between population and resources that takes present and future needs into account.

An accurate and comprehensive analysis of the aspects of the population problem requires redoubled efforts to provide educational and health services. We must also be more attentive to women who have a basic role in building families and bringing up children and who bear most of the responsibility in implementing population programs.

Improving the circumstances under which women live, particularly in developing countries, increasing their awareness of the seriousness of the issue, and enlightening them about its various implications is the cornerstone, indeed the starting point, of all successful population policies seeking to establish a society capable of efficiently undertaking the task of economic development. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, heads of state, heads of government, and delegation chairmen, Egypt faced a crushing population crisis that reached an explosive point in the middle of this century as a result of the continuing drop in the death rate and the persistence of a high birth rate. This was caused by a consistent improvement in health services that began early in the 20th century. Egypt's population doubled in 25 years, something that formerly happened once every 50 years, and this swallowed up the increasing revenue of new economic development plans. It threatened living standards and placed an extra burden on services. Resources, meanwhile, remained limited and could not fulfill the public's increasing hope of a better future or restrain a population growth rate that exceeded any other in the world.

This phenomenon became still more acute because the population was confined to a small part of the country, the Nile Valley and the Delta. Egyptian population density became unbelievable.

It was natural that this issue should enjoy the state's and society's attention and become the foremost national priority to which official and private institutions directed their collective efforts in the hope of finding an acceptable solution to remedy the crisis, one that would be satisfactory to the general public, enjoy the trust of every citizen, and be harmonious with heavenly beliefs and religious values. A solution was needed that could arouse the enthusiasm of the people to contribute to its success without coercion.

The Egyptian population program achieved its aims because the public was told the bare facts. There was trust in the public's ability to carry out its required role if it was educated and enlightened. True knowledge is the first step that encourages the masses to act and participate and enables them to make a sound choice based on intellectual and psychological convictions.

We refused to accept any population policies involving coercion, because compulsion contradicts our spiritual values and heavenly doctrines and clashes with our basic constitutional principles. In practical terms, coercion hinders population plans and programs not based on voluntary public acceptance, even if they enjoy temporary success at the beginning.

Compulsory programs can only be implemented in nondemocratic societies governed by coercion and fear, conditions that do not produce good citizens able to participate in the national endeavor.

We have also refused to resort to any form of legislation that would restrict citizens' freedom to make their own decisions or compel them to take specific measures

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required by family planning programs. We rejected that because we were sure that in family matters, the choice should be free and should proceed from the citizen's will and awareness so that it can be successful and stable.

We have worked hard to make our population program modest and in harmony with deep-rooted religious values. This is because we firmly believe that the values of true religion—if intentions are good, if tolerance is prevalent, and if people are concerned about essence and significance, not about form and appearance—constitute a driving force toward reform. We mainly relied on enlightening the public about Egypt's population problem and its complex relationship with Egypt's limited resources and the people's ambition for a better life. We were very concerned about promoting education throughout the country, and we considered this a major national issue deserving absolute attention. Promoting education is the true starting point for any reform designed to establish a society capable of confronting challenges.

We now have an ambitious program that has found its way toward implementation. The program addresses all aspects of the educational question: opening new, modern schools that give students a chance to exercise all their learning and educational activities; repairing existing school buildings; reviewing programs and curricula; and training and rehabilitating teachers to make them more able to develop the minds of students, strengthen their ability to deal with the facts and modern developments of science, and build up their characters in a way that boosts their ability to engage in creative dialogue, allowing them to make the best judgments.

We have also been just as interested in the need to upgrade social services in all parts of Egypt. The importance of this factor becomes evident if we take into consideration the fact that there are 4,000 villages and a significant number of small population centers in Egypt. We had to redouble efforts to improve health services so that they could be provided to every citizen in his place, paying special attention to the health of women and children, and taking care of psychological as well as physical health.

The result of these policies, which depended on knowledge, awareness, and provision of educational and health services to every citizen, was that the population growth rate dropped from 2.8 percent annually in 1980 to 2.2 percent this year, and the number of families participating in family planning programs increased from 28 percent to 50 percent of the total number of Egyptian families in urban and rural areas.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the Egyptian program is that it has become a national issue with which all parties and groups sympathize, which attracts a considerable measure of national consensus, and which enjoys a high degree of public satisfaction regardless of religious affiliation. These results augur well, proving that we are on the right course and that we pursue firm and stable policies guaranteeing continuation of the reform process in the long term and achievement of the hoped for results because they are based on the free choice of all citizens. As a matter of fact, in implementing this program we received genuine cooperation from numerous friends and important international organizations, notably the United Nations and its competent departments, such as the Population Fund, the Development Program, the Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and UNESCO, as well as from the governments of a number of friendly countries that contributed to the success of the Egyptian program. This cooperation emphasizes international solidarity and the importance of cooperation with every country that charts a national program stemming from its actual realities and circumstances and consistent with its values and traditions and, at the same time, guaranteeing achievement of its goals and compliance with its priorities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to these organizations, notably Dr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, and Dr. Nafis Sadiq, the executive director [applause] of the UN Population Fund and secretary general of the ICPD, who made praiseworthy efforts to make this conference a success and to arrange to hold it in this honorable way.

Ladies and gentlemen, we begin our work and dialogue at this general conference full of hope that our discussions of all proposed issues will be free and impartial, relying on objectivity and observing ethical values and firm beliefs, and allowing everyone the opportunity to participate so that all cultures and opinions may interact to enrich our common experience. We want our dialogue to be free of fanatical and radical views, because radical views remain outside the general context of the development of societies and lack consensus and acceptance on all levels. No matter how wise we are, I do not believe we can reach sound solutions to our population problems unless they are accepted by our societies and meet the masses' basic needs and are harmonious with their values and creeds. We cannot underestimate the dangers surrounding our world because of the population explosion, nor can we disregard the numerous tragedies still besetting our world despite the end of the Cold War. However, we would be remiss if we ignored the budding hopes looming on the near horizon, carrying the promise of a better future.

The enormous achievements of modern science and continual and successive scientific discoveries will enhance man's ability to confront numerous challenges in the areas of food and alternative materials, protecting the environment, and promoting services. Similarly, the increasing sense by mankind that man will not be able to assert himself or achieve balance by satisfying his material needs at the expense of his psychological and spiritual needs, this increasing sense gives us hope in new generations capable, with awareness and belief, of avoiding the abyss of fall and loss in the labyrinth of suspicion and deviation.

Perhaps the most important positive development being witnessed on our globe, or rather the most influential development in the future of humanity, is represented in this orientation and in the ever-increasing human alignment with peace and rejection of arms races and all types

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of weapons of mass destruction. Today mankind aspires to a safer and more secure world devoting efforts to the well-being of man on earth. Therefore, there have been increasing calls to resolve disputes, even those that seemed too intractable to resolve through negotiations and peaceful settlements and common acceptance of fair solutions balancing the interests of all parties in accordance with the principles of justice and legality. These, in my view, are the developments that most generate optimism about the future despite the numerous tragedies we are witnessing in various parts of the world.

Today we look to a new world that is better able to confront future challenges, a world that will further enhance cooperation and cohesion among peoples in order to do away with enmity and quarreling and to foster a spirit of tolerance instead of radicalism and fanaticism, a world that will bring nations and peoples closer and urge creative competition to enrich mankind's life and secure its present and future. These are not daydreams, but rather legitimate aspirations that could be fulfilled if our ranks were united and our views harmonious and if we began our major work with a new spirit, realizing that we are all in the same boat. Brothers and sisters, I pray to God to safeguard our march, grant us success, and guide us on his right path. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

PRC Delegation Head Urges Action

OW0609085194 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1656 GMT 5 Sep 94

[By reporter Wu Xiaojun (0702 1420 6511)]

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (XINHUA)— Peng Peiyun, head of the Chinese delegation, state councillor, and minister in charge of the State Family Planning Commission, addressed the Third International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which opened today. She called on the international community to commit itself and take action to reduce the speed of population growth, eliminate poverty, protect the ecology and environment, and achieve sustained economic development.

Peng Peiyun said: The significance of this conference covers both this century and the next. The final document to be adopted by it will have a lasting impact on international population and development programs over the next 20 years. As one of the most populous countries in the world, China, like many other developing countries, is confronted with the important and urgent task of solving problems in the area of population and development.

She said: The issue of population is, in essence, an issue of development. Fundamentally, the only way to solve population problems is to persistently develop productive forces and promote all-around economic and social development.

She pointed out: Countries around the world should independently formulate their population policies and targets according to their specific domestic conditions and population situation, and choose their own ways and programs to attain those goals. This is the sovereign right of each country which should be fully respected.

Peng Peiyun said: Improving women's status and the conditions under which they receive education, easing the way for women to become more involved in politics and economic development, protecting women's rights and interests, and realizing the goal of gender equality are extremely important to the success of population and development programs.

She pointed out: The stabilization of the world population and the achievement of sustained development not only depend on the endeavors of national governments, but they also need the strengthening and promotion of international cooperation. International cooperation on population and development should be established on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit. No country should attach political conditions to assistance provided for population and development programs.

Regarding China's situation, Peng Peiyun said: The total population of China's mainland reached more than 1.185 billion by the end of 1993, and it still witnesses a net increase of about 14 million each year. It is the strategic goal of China to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development, fulfill the increasing material and cultural needs of all its people, endeavor to improve people's quality of life, and achieve all-round social progress. These are also the ultimate objectives in solving the population problem.

She pointed out: It is out of a high sense of responsibility for the present and future interest of the Chinese nation, as well as for the stability and prosperity of the world, that the Chinese Government has set family planning and environment protection as two fundamental national policies and has incorporated them into the over-all national plan for economic and social development, while carrying out reform, opening itself to the outside world, and vigorously developing the economy.

She said: In implementing its population and family planning programs, the Chinese Government has been adhering to the principle of combining government guidance with the voluntary support of the people. The programs have won widespread voluntary support from the people and have attained tangible results.

In conclusion, Peng Peiyun said: While working even harder to solve its population problem, China will contribute to the stabilization of the global population and to the promotion of world peace, development, and cooperation.

Pakistani Prime Minister Addresses Conference

BK0609094594 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 11

["Text" of speech by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo on 5 September]

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[Text] Mr. President, Secretary General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I come before you as the democratically elected Prime Minister of a great Muslim nation—the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

I come before you as the leader of the ninth largest population on earth. Ladies and Gentlemen.

We stand on the cross roads of history.

The choices that we make today will affect the future of mankind.

Out of the debris of the second world war arose the impulse to reconstruct the world.

Large communities of peoples exercised their right of self-determination by establishing nations states of their own.

The challenges of economic development led, in several instances, to group-formation where states subordinated their individual destiny to collective initiatives.

It seemed for a while that these collective efforts would determine the political architecture of the future.

The events of the last few years have, however, made us aware of the growing complexity and contradictions of the human situation.

The end of the cold war, should have freed immense resources for development.

Unfortunately, it led to the re-emergence of sub-regional tensions and conflicts.

In extreme cases, there was a breakup of nation states.

Sadly, instead of coming nearer, the objective of a concerted global action to address common problems of mankind, seems lost in the twilight.

The problem of population stabilisation faced by us today cannot be divorced from our yesterdays.

Ironically enough, population has risen fastest in areas which were weakened most by the unfortunate experience of colonial domination.

The third world communities have scarce resources spread thinly over a vast stretch of pressing human needs.

We are unable to tackle questions of population growth on a scale commensurate with the demographic challenge.

Since demographic pressures, together with migration from disadvantaged areas to affluent states, are urgent problems, transcending national frontiers, it is imperative that in the field of population control, global strategies and national plans work in unison.

Perhaps that is a dream. But we all have a right to dream. Ladies and gentlemen, I dream of a Pakistan, of an Asia, of a world where every pregnancy is planned, and every child conceived is nurtured, loved, educated and supported.

I dream of a Pakistan, of an Asia, of a world not undermined by ethnic divisions brought upon by population growth starvation crime and anarchy.

I dream of a Pakistan, of an Asia, of a world, where we can commit our social resources to the development of human life and not to its destruction.

That dream is far from the reality we endure.

We are a planet in crisis, a planet out of control, a planet moving towards catastrophe. The question before us at this conference is whether we have the will, the energy, the strength to do something about it.

I say we do. We must.

What we need is a global partnership for improving the human condition.

We must concentrate on that which unites us. We should not examine issues that divide us. Our document should seek to promote the objective of planned parenthood, of population control.

This conference must not be viewed by the teaming masses of the world as a universal social charter seeking to impose adultery, abortion, sex education and other such matters on individuals, societies and religions which have their own social ethos, by convening this conference, the international community is reaffirming its resolve that problems of a global nature will be solved through global efforts.

Governments can internally do a great deal to improve the quality of life in our society. But there is much that governments cannot do.

Governments do not educate our children. Parents educate children. More often women educate children.

Governments do not teach values to our children. Parents teach values to our children. More often mothers teach values to children.

Governments do not socialise youngsters into responsible citizens. Parents are the primary socialising agents in society. In most societies, that job belongs to the mother.

How do we tackle population growth in a country like Pakistan? We tackle it by tackling infant mortality. By providing villages with electrification. By raising an army of women, 33,000 strong, to educate our mothers, sisters, daughters in child welfare and population control.

By setting up a bank run by women for women, to help women achieve economic independence. And, with economic independence, have the wherewithal to make independent choices.

I am what I am today because of a beloved father who left me independent means, to make independent decisions, free of male prejudice in my society, or even in my family.

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As chief executive of one of the nine largest populated countries in the world, I and the government are faced with the awesome task of providing for homes, schools, hospitals, sewerage, drainage, food, gas, electricity, employment and infrastructure.

In Pakistan, in a period of 30 years—from 1951 to 1981—our population rose by 50 million. At present it is 126 million.

By the year 2020, our population may be 243 million. In 1960 one acre of land sustained one person. Today one acre of land sustains 2 ½ people. Pakistan cannot progress if it cannot check its rapid population growth.

Check it we must for it is not the destiny of the people of Pakistan to live in squalor and poverty condemned to future of hunger and horror.

That is why, along with the 33,000 lady health workers and the women's bank, the government has appointed community motivaters across the country.

To educate and motivate our people to a higher standard of living through planned families, spaced families, families that can be nurtured.

In our first budget, we demonstrated our commitment to human resource development.

We increased social sector spending by 33 percent.

And by the year 2000 we intend to take Pakistan's educational expenditure from 2.19 percent where we found it to 3 percent of our GNP.

This is no easy task for a country with a difficult IMF structural programme.

With a ban on economic and military assistance from the only superpower in the world.

With 2.4 million Afghan refugees forgotten by the world.

With more Kashmiri refugees coming in needing protection.

But we are determined to do it. For we have a commitment to our people.

A commitment based on principles.

Such a commitment demands that we take decisions which are right, which are not always popular.

Leaders are elected to lead nations.

Leaders are not elected to let a vocal narrow minded minority dictate an agenda of backwardness.

We are committed to an agenda for change.

An agenda to take our mothers and our infants in to the 21st Century with the hope of a better future.

A future free from diseases that rack and ruin.

A future free from Polio, from Goiter, from blindness caused by deficiency in Vitamin A.

These are the battles that we must fight, not only as a Nation but as a global community.

These are the battle on which history—and our people—will judge us.

These are the battles to which the mosque and the church must contribute, along with governments and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] and families.

Empowerment of women is one part of this battle.

Today women pilots fly planes in Pakistan, women serve as judges in the superior judiciary, women work in police stations, women work in our civil service, our foreign service and our media.

Our working women uphold the Islamic principle that all individuals are equal in the eyes of God.

By empowering our women, we work for our goal of population stabilization and, with it, promotion of human dignity.

But the march of mankind to higher heights is a universal and collective concern.

Regrettably, the conference's document contains serious flaws in striking at the heart of a great many cultural values, in the North and in the South, in the mosque and in church. In Pakistan our response will doubtless be shaped by our belief in the central teachings of Islam.

Islam is a dynamic religion, committed to human progress. It makes no unfair demands of its followers.

The Holy Koran Says:

"Allah wishes you ease, and wishes not hardship for you."

Again the Holy Book says:

"He has chosen you, and has not laid on you any hardship in religion."

The followers of Islam have no conceptual difficulty in addressing questions of regulating population in the light of available resources.

The only constraint is that the process must be consistent with abiding moral principles.

Islam lays a great deal of stress on the sanctity of life.

The Holy Book tells us:

"Kill not your children on a plea of want.

We provide sustenance for them and for you."

Islam, therefore, except in exceptional circumstances rejects abortion as a method of population control.

There is little compromise on Islam's emphasis on the family unit.

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The traditional family is the basic unit on which any society rests.

It is the anchor on which the individual relies as he embarks upon the journey of life.

Islam aims at harmonious lives built upon a bedrock of conjugal fidelity and parental responsibility.

Many suspect that the disintegration of the traditional family has contributed to moral decay.

Let me state categorically, Mr Chairman, that the traditional family is the union sanctified by marriage.

Muslims, with their over-riding commitment to knowledge, would have no difficulty with dissemination of information about reproductive health so long as its modalities remain compatible with their religious and spiritual heritage lack of an adequate infrastructure of services, and not ideology, constitutes our basic problems. [sentence as published]

The major objective of the population policy of the newly elected democratic government is a commitment to improve the quality of life of the people through provision of family planning and health services.

Mr. Chairman,

We refuse to be daunted by the immensity of the task.

But the goals set by this conference would become realistic only with the whole hearted cooperation amongst the nations of the world.

Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda and Kashmir are but a few reminders of how far we have departed from our principles and ideals.

In many parts of the world we witness the nation-state under siege.

The rise of the so-called fundamentalism in some of our societies, and the emergence of neo-fascism, in some western communities, are symptoms of a deeper malaise.

I believe the nation states might just have failed to meet their people's expectations within their own limited national sources vesances [as published] or ideological framework.

If so, the malady is probably none other than a retreat from the ideals of the founding Fathers of the United Nations.

We can, perhaps, still restore mankind to vibrant health by returning to those ideals, the ideals of global cooperation.

Given that background, I hope that the delegates participating in this conference will act in wisdom, and with vision, to promote population stabilization.

Pakistan's delegation will work constructively for the finalization of a document enjoying the widest possible consensus ladies and gentlemen our destiny does not lie in our stars it lies within us our destiny beacons us let us have the strength to grasp it thank you. [sentence as published]

Thank you, President Mubarak, for hosting this conference on such an important global concern and thank you Mr Secretary General and Dr Nafiz Sadik, for making it possible.

Norwegian Prime Minister's Remarks Reported

BR0709154894 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 6 Sep 94 p 11

[Report by Sigrun Johnstad NTB: "Gro Makes Strong Abortion Speech in Cairo"]

[Text] Cairo—"I have met only positive reactions. I believe we can achieve a great deal at this conference by making people realize that illegal abortion is a major problem."

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said this to the Norwegian press after her strong abortion speech at the opening of the UN population conference in Cairo yesterday. Her speech attracted the most attention on the opening day.

In the speech, which met with a standing ovation, Gro Harlem Brundtland took a strong personal position as a supporter of abortion by choice. At the same time, she emphasized that the Cairo conference should not conduct a debate for or against abortion by choice but rather discuss what can be done for the hundreds of thousands of women who lose their lives every year in illegal abortions.

"Decriminalization of abortion is the least that can be done to deal with this reality and a necessary means of protecting women's lives and health. None of us, regardless of our religion, can ignore the fact that abortions take place, and that in places where they are illegal, women's lives and health are often at risk," said Harlem Brundtland.

Persecution or Help

"Decriminalization is not the same as legalization," the prime minister emphasized to the Norwegian press after her speech. "The question is: Shall we persecute a woman who has undergone an abortion or offer her medical assistance? Illegal abortion leads to a woman hiding herself away from the health-care system as well. I have not demanded that every country have the same abortion law as we do. But the least many countries can do is think it over."

The prime minister made things quite clear when she summed up Norway's experience of abortion by choice in her speech.

"I am happy to be able to say that the total number of abortions in Norway has not risen since abortion became legal. Our abortion rate is one of the lowest in the world," she stated.

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"A Living Legend"

Harlem Brundtland's speech was constantly interrupted by applause, which although far from being unanimous, came both from large parts of the special delegations and especially from the many representatives of women's organizations attending the conference. And after her speech, when she met representatives of grass-roots organizations at one of the sessions of their alternative conference, the Norwegian prime minister was almost embraced by international women's representatives. She was described as "a living legend," and some of the reactions in the hall were overwhelming: "I thank your mother for giving birth to you," cried out a representative of an Egyptian women's organization.

Problems with Abortion

The only Muslim female national leader attending the conference, Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, yesterday criticized the UN plan for reducing the world's population.

Bhutto presented objections which both conservative Muslims and the Vatican had expressed earlier, and she said at the opening of the conference, that parts of the plan of action criticize religious values.

French Minister Comments on ICPD, France's Role

NC0509173494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Mrs. Simone Veil, French minister of state for social affairs and health, has said that the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has turned world attention to the demographic issue and its association with development.

At a news conference on the sidelines of the ICPD, which opened in Cairo today, Mrs. Veil said no family planning program can succeed or be implemented unless it receives the support of the people to which it is directed.

Such programs, she said, must take into consideration respect for fundamental rights, creed, and traditions as well as the basic rights of the individuals to which these programs apply.

She stressed that France and Europe are prepared to shoulder their responsibility to support the family planning programs that will be agreed upon at the conference.

The head of the French delegation said the conference also managed to shed light on the basic role of women and their right to make their own decisions concerning family planning programs.

She stressed that France is prepared to shoulder its responsibilities with respect to family planning programs.

She said her country attaches importance to combating AIDS, and said that France will organize an international conference in Paris in December. The conference, she explained, will urge the world public and the rich industrial countries to work jointly with international financial organizations to combat AIDS.

Egypt, 'Group of 77' Propose Amendments

NC0509190394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adil al-Safti, assistant foreign minister and member of the Egyptian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], stated that Egypt has submitted proposals to amend some of the ICPD document's clauses.

In statements to correspondents today, al-Safti said that the Group of 77 met after the opening session this morning under the chairmanship of Algeria, the current chairman of the Group of 77, for consultations over clauses in the document's first and second chapters. Egypt presented amendments to the first chapter, which includes the preamble, and the second chapter, which deals with principles.

He said that the amendments call for recognition of every country's sovereign right to set out and implement a population policy in light of its national laws and within the limits of the rules of ethics that it applies and the rules of its religion, while taking into account socio-economic factors in each country.

He noted that the Group of 77 accepted these amendments, which were then presented to the main committee at its session this afternoon.

Amb. al-Safti went on to say that the first and second chapters of the document's 16 chapters will be discussed today and tomorrow. This will be followed by a discussion of the seventh and eighth chapters, noting in this respect the latter's importance because of differences in the countries' stands on them.

The Egyptian diplomat added that the objective is to give the delegations enough time to discuss the disputed points so that the ICPD will not end with some points still pending, as this would force the delegations to agree to anything. He said: Discussion of the chapters that have aroused much debate has therefore started, as there is enough time to discuss and amend them.

He noted that the Egyptian delegation yesterday attended a meeting of the Arab group and another held by the Islamic group, during which the Egyptian amendments were discussed and accepted by the delegations that attended the two meetings.

Mexican Representative Discusses Objectives

PA0609134494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1850 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (EFE)—Alfonso Navarrete, head of the Mexican delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], pointed out today that it will be necessary to respect the different cultures

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and beliefs of various nations when the time comes to approve the forum's action plan.

"The key to maintaining peace among nations is based on respect for the pluralism of views that makes us strong," Navarrete, deputy secretary for population and migration affairs, said in his address to the ICPD plenum this afternoon. Navarrete added that "Mexico will seek a consensus among the nations, avoiding polarization on the main issue" to be dealt at the ICPD.

Navarrete expressed his country's concern with the "recent worsening of poverty and the nearly 100 percent increase in the gap between North and South in the past 20 years," since the Population Conference was held in Bucharest in 1974.

Navarrete also stressed the unprecedented increase in emigration toward developed countries in those two decades because of the inequality in the distribution of wealth.

Although he indicated that progress has taken place in the area of birth control, with birth rates actually declining in Asia and Africa, "we still have a great challenge ahead of us."

In this regard, he stressed that Mexico has made enormous modernization efforts in the area of population, thereby reducing its annual growth from 3.5 percent to 1.8 percent in the past two decades.

In terms of the topics to be discussed at the ICPD, Mexico considers the following to be very important: broadening education, particularly in terms of women's education; promoting a close relationship between development and environmental awareness; respecting the human rights of emigres; and preventing xenophobic attitudes. Navarrete also mentioned the promoting of equality between men and women and increasing awareness on the importance of reproductive health as goals of the ICPD.

Iranian Delegation Consults With Egyptian Counterparts

NC0509182594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Consultations were held between the Egyptian and Iranian delegations on the sidelines of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD].

This was stated by Ambassador 'Adil al-Safti, assistant foreign minister and member of the Egyptian delegation to the conference. He told MENA that the Iranian delegation asked to consult with the Egyptian delegation. He added that the Iranian delegation also took part in the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization group, where it presented constructive ideas and made useful remarks.

Amb. al-Safti said that all countries are holding consultations in order to reach a unified stand and amend what has to be amended in the ICPD document.

6 September

Japan Pledges $3 Billion in Assistance

OW0609131994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 6 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said Tuesday [6 September] Japan will contribute 3 billion dollars toward population control and AIDS prevention programs in developing countries by 2000.

Kono announced the undertaking during a speech at a plenary session of the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo.

He also urged delegates to give unanimous support to a 20-year action program the conference is debating to slow the global population explosion.

He stressed the need for a sustainable balance between the population issue, and the environment and natural resources, saying a population explosion would lead to such serious problems as environmental destruction and depletion of resources.

Kono told the conference that it is essential for developed countries to review their patterns of production and consumption, and try to develop environmentally friendly technology, and for developing nations to keep their birth rates down.

According to the latest UN estimates, the global population will jump from 5.66 billion in 1994 to 8.47 billion in 2025, with most growth occurring in the developing world.

Kono said an urgent solution on a global scale is required to the population problem but said this requires a comprehensive approach toward improvements in the health, education and status of women, citing Japan's experience in these areas.

Some 15,000 experts, officials and representatives of non-government organizations (NGOs) from 160 nations are attending the conference.

The number of participants is below the 20,000 projected by the Egyptian Government mainly due to boycotts from Islamic countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, which oppose the conference's support of birth control.

Indonesian Minister's Address Reported

BK0609134594 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Indonesia has called again for strong efforts to achieve a global consensus on population. Addressing the plenary session of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo today, Haryono Suyono, minister of state for population and chairman of the National Family Planning Coordinating Board, said a global consensus could be achieved through constructive

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dialogue and partnership based on mutual interests and benefits and common responsibility.

According to Suyono, the conference provides a golden opportunity to formulate a population policy and program. The Indonesian delegation hopes the conference will make a realistic decision by considering different population problems in each country. Suyono also reviewed Indonesia's experience in overcoming various population problems.

ROK Health Minister Delivers Speech

SK0709052994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0454 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 6 (YONHAP)—Successful implementation of a population program contributed to South Korea's stable economic growth and the country would like to share its experience with other nations, Health and Social Affairs Minister So Sang-mok said Tuesday.

Delivering a keynote speech at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), So said, "the last 30 years' experience in population policy in Korea shows that population programs succeed when they are part of the development strategy, when priority is placed on investing in people, and when women are empowered through education to play a key role in determining family size and in reducing infant, child and maternal mortality."

South Korea adopted a national family planning program as an integral part of successive five-year economic development plans starting in 1962. During the last three decades, the country's economic growth rate per annum has been a robust 8 percent.

"Today, Korea is proud to be able to share her experience and knowledge on population policy and economic development through the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), which was established in 1991 for technical cooperation among developing countries," he said.

He added that the country would continue to engage in multilateral and bilateral cooperation with U.N. agencies and other organizations involved in population and development programs.

The minister is scheduled to return to Seoul Wednesday evening.

Turkish Minister Addresses Conference

TA0709121294 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2130 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] State Minister Onay Alpago has declared that the fast population growth is threatening the future of the world. Alpago delivered a speech at the Cairo conference on the global population strategy for the next 20 years. TRT correspondent Coskun Kartal reports from Cairo:

[Begin recording] [Kartal] Alpago came to the dais as the 38th speaker at the conference. In her speech, Alpago stressed that the decisions to be adopted and implemented in this conference are important for the future of our planet, adding that everyone needs a better quality of life. Alpago said that the fast population growth will increase the future economic and social imbalances between wealthy and poor countries.

The question of population and development constitutes a fundamental issue for the prosperity, freedom, and above all the dignity of mankind, Alpago stated. Commenting on the work undertaken in Turkey in this field, the state minister remarked that successful results were obtained in lowering the infant fatality rate and curbing the increase in the birth rate.

[Alpago] Development plans have been implemented in Turkey for over 30 years. During this period, our country has been a favorable example with regard to the integration of population variables into development plans. These efforts have demonstrated that the concept of population planning should not be restricted to family planning alone and should be based on a more comprehensive foundation.

The traditional approach of Turkish Governments to the population policy began to change in the 50's with the acknowledgment of the existence of extensive health problems and large numbers of mother fatalities stemming from high-risk pregnancies. The factors of urbanization and unemployment have also contributed to new antinatal policies.

These efforts are also appreciated by the international community. Turkey was awarded the population prize of the UN Family Health and Planning Foundation.

[Kartal] Alpago expressed the hope that an action plan that protects the human being, the environment, and individual freedoms will emerge from the Cairo conference. She will return to Turkey tomorrow. [end recording]

Leaders Sign Statement on Population Stability

NC0609110494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—Some 65 heads of government have signed a statement on world population stability, which they will submit to Dr. Nafis Sadik, secretary general of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] currently being held in Cairo.

Indonesian President Suharto had earlier asked the nonaligned heads of governments to sign this statement, which Indonesian Population Minister Haryono Suyono, chairman of the Indonesian delegation to the ICPD, will submit to Dr. Sadik.

The statement urges world leaders to undertake personal efforts to enhance the population policies and programs all over the world, demands emphasis on improving women's conditions and guaranteeing their involvement in these

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policies and programs, and calls for respect for human rights and freedom of religion.

The statement emphasizes that mankind is facing great challenges to establish peace among nations, protect the environment, preserve natural resources, achieve economic progress and social development, particularly in the less developed countries, emphasize human rights, protect the planet Earth, and achieve a population balance for the sake of future generations.

The statement attributes current economic and environmental problems to the enormous population growth, in addition to other factors, and warns that unbridled population growth will result in future generations suffering from a shortage of food, housing, health services, and education, things which natural sources cannot provide.

"We believe that it is high time we recognize the pressing need to achieve a population balance on earth according to individual states' conditions, plans, culture, and ambitions," the statement says.

Signed by some world leaders, the statement reiterates each country's right to participate in the ICPD and in determining the goals and objectives it deems necessary to achieve a population balance. "These plans should be based on respect for human rights and creeds," the statement stresses.

It calls on world leaders to play a personal role in developing and implementing population programs and in improving women's conditions and guaranteeing their involvement in drawing up population policies in the context of a realistic framework and an exhaustive socioeconomic plan.

The statement expresses the hope that world leaders will answer the call to implement these programs, since the achievement of a world population balance soon will serve the interests of all the nations of the world and bring prosperity to their people.

The statement is signed by the heads of governments of the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, North Korea, South Korea, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia], Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and the Philippines.

It was also signed by the prime ministers of Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia (islands in the Caribbean), Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Zimbabwe.

Egypt, Pakistan Request Amendments to Document

NC0609163094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Ambassador Mirfat al-Tilawi, member of the Egyptian delegation to the main committee of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] and chairman of the same committee, today said that Egypt and Pakistan have requested amendments to section eight of the conference document. Al-Tilawi added that the ICPD committee discussed section seven of the document at today's morning session.

There is a similarity of views as well as cooperation among Arab and Islamic countries. Arab and Islamic countries, she said, asked Egypt to speak on their behalf and to express a position commensurate with their values and conditions.

Egyptian Delegation Presents Views on Agenda

NC0609191494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The Egyptian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] today presented its views concerning the ICPD draft document. Affirming religious and family values, the Egyptian delegation said that any recommendations passed by the ICPD should only be implemented within the framework of laws and religious, social, and ethical values. The delegation stated that the family is the basic unit of society and as such deserves every protection and support. The delegation also addressed a number of controversial points and topics on the ICPD's agenda.

Vatican Spokesman Explains Position on Document

NC0609182194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—The Vatican's delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has expressed the belief that the population policy should be interested not in the size of the population but in the provision of care for it.

The delegation said the Vatican realizes that the world is facing serious problems because of population growth, but this growth is countered by a drop in other parts of the world, such as the industrial countries.

In a press statement tonight, Dr. Joaquim Navarro Valls, spokesman for the Vatican delegation, said the delegation is participating in the ICPD out of the belief in its importance for humanity and in order to demand progress for individuals and societies, especially in the areas of human rights, social justice, health care, and the right to education and marriage.

When the issue of population is discussed, the spokesman said, it should be taken into consideration that the population problem is a factor of growth, and any discussion of

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it should proceed from the policies of states and focus on economic and social development.

The spokesman expressed regret that the ICPD's draft document discusses the issue of development in only seven of its 113 pages.

The Vatican spokesman noted in his statement that the document contains positive aspects, such as its emphasis on education and health care, in which the church is interested, especially for women and children. He pointed out that the Catholic Church is providing educational and health services through some 100,000 units throughout the world.

The spokesman announced the Vatican's rejection of the document's proposals concerning health care in abortion cases. Despite the difficulties a pregnant woman may face, he said, the solution must focus on treatment and care, and should not go so far as violating a child's right to life, respect for the family, and the child's right to his parents' care.

The spokesman demanded that abortion not be mentioned in any plan for population planning. He expressed reservations on this and said the Vatican is committed to a moral stance to serve the individual and society.

Joaquim Navarro Valls said the Vatican's position on family planning is in agreement with that of the other divine religions and ethical conventions. The Vatican, he explained, believes that achieving economic development, not limiting the natural growth of the population, should be the solution to the problems of individuals and societies. The Vatican does not agree with the view that population growth is the only problem hindering development plans, he said.

The spokesman said the Vatican does not approve of the document's proposals about abortion, extra-marital relations, and the results of sexual freedoms outside the institution of marriage. The Vatican, he added, believes that proposing or approving such things will harm individuals and societies.

Welcomes U.S. Stance

BR0609143594 Rome L'INFORMAZIONE in Italian 6 Sep 94 p 15

[Interview with Vatican spokesman Joaquim Navarro Valls by "G.Ol." in Cairo; date not given: "Navarro Valls: 'The Change by the United States Is Welcomed but Certain Ambiguities Must Be Eliminated'"—first two paragraphs are L'INFORMAZIONE introduction]

[Text] "We are convinced that something must be done to respect a woman's choice to avoid an undesired pregnancy and to reduce population growth and the number of abortions. The United States does not want to establish abortion as an international right and does not believe that abortion should be promoted as a method of family planning. This matter should be regulated by the single governments, and we must make every effort to come to an agreement."

U.S. Vice President Al Gore is therefore "opening" to the Vatican. His appears to be a conciliatory course of action like that of the Pakistani prime minister. The United States, now in accord with the EU [European Union], will have to reconcile the different "sentiments" that clearly emerged at the conference yesterday.

[L'INFORMAZIONE] What does Vatican spokesman Joaquim Navarro Valls think about all this?

[Navarro Valls] We are happy to hear this. It is language that we like very much: If there is to be a change in position, it must clearly come from one side only. Let me remind the American representatives, however, that the conference is an assembly of sovereign states, and, therefore, the change must take place in the commission hall. Let us hope that the same things will be stated in the hall.

[L'INFORMAZIONE] The United States is willing to support the removal of the word abortion from the chapter on family planning and to mention it in the following chapter on health. Will this be sufficient?

[Navarro Valls] This is not a semantic exercise here. We are talking about ideas that will be proposed to governments all over the world and that will be translated into national laws. The concepts of sexual health and reproductive health, which undoubtedly have positive elements, must be well defined and clarified because they have never been approved by international assemblies and, the way in which they are expressed now, are equivocal. It is a juridical problem as well as a problem of content and of an ethical nature. It deals with two concepts that, since they appear in the text more than 100 times, are its backbone and each of the 100 times imply abortion upon request.

When, for example, the reproductive rights of couples and individuals are mentioned, I would like to know what reproductive rights the single individual holds!

[L'INFORMAZIONE] How must the text be changed in order to be accepted by the Vatican?

[Navarro Valls] By defining the ambiguous concepts and by eliminating the risk that each time a woman is offered an opportunity to have access to family planning services, this is synonomous with abortion upon request.

[L'INFORMAZIONE] What is the role of the Holy See delegation?

[Navarro Valls] We are working hard to reach a consensus. Ours is an effort to convince. However, I am surprised that in interviews Mrs. Sadik is stating that the Holy See will not vote on the final text.

I am surprised that a person, who, as secretary of the conference, must remain over and above the parties, is taking the liberty of making comments regarding our

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intentions. If the document satisfies us we will sign, and one can even sign with reservation.

[L'INFORMAZIONE] Is there really a holy alliance between the church and the Islamic world?

[Navarro Valls] I deny this categorically. Three months ago we signed a document on the family with the Jewish people and at that time nobody shouted it was a holy alliance. Ours is a 360-degree diplomacy. We have contacts with all the delegations and at least 70 percent of these encounters have taken place upon the request of the various countries.

Iranian Official Views Conference, Boycotters

NC0609150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of the Iranian delegation participating in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has criticized the stance of the countries that refused to participate in the conference. He said that these countries should have attended and expressed their views on the controversial clauses, opposed them, or explained their reservations.

Taskhiri told reporters at the International Conference Center today that the ICPD plans for the issues of population and development for the next 20 years. He noted that there are positive aspects in the document proposed to the conference that must be supported, noting that there are weak points in other clauses that must be corrected in line with the culture of every country. He said that one of the negative aspects of the document is that it does not take into consideration the cultural traditions and religious teachings in organizing population or the reactions that such issues may create. He pointed out that we have to wait until the document's final formula is endorsed by the conference.

Taskhiri said that no group of nations has a right to impose its concept on others and that every country has a right to accept what it deems appropriate in this document. He went on to say that there are unclear terms in the document that may have different interpretations, noting that such terms as "sex education, sexual health, and sexual awareness" must be clarified so that every party will not interpret it in its favor. He said that such topics must not be mentioned in an international document released by the United Nations.

Taskhiri said that there is full coordination and understanding among all Islamic delegations to the conference to confront anything in the document that contravenes Islam, such as rejecting abortion except in exceptional cases. He stressed the extreme importance of the ICPD, which is convened at the highest international level. He called for concentrating all efforts on providing the best means for its success because it addresses the world's most important problems in the years to come, namely population and development. It is noteworthy that the Iranian delegation comprises of ten members, including a number of women.

Norway's Brundtland Denies Abortion Stand Reports

NC0609082394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, following her meeting with President Mubarak in the Presidential Office this morning, said it was one of many meetings with the president over the years. My relationship with President Mubarak goes back a long way, she said, adding that she had a constructive dialogue with the president, which she completed this morning.

She said the president briefed her on the central Egyptian role in the ongoing Middle East peace process. We discussed the next step on the Syrian track, which is extremely important for the peace process, she said.

The Norwegian prime minister pointed out that she informed the president that a Western news agency broadcast a report on her speech at the opening session of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] and that the Egyptian newspapers published an inaccurate report, which was misinterpreted. I did not call for international legislation to legalize abortion, she said, adding: I told the president this; he heard my speech and of course knows what I said.

Brundtland added: I seize this opportunity to express my viewpoint. There is a big difference between calling for international legislation to legalize abortion worldwide and stating that abortion must not be deemed a crime. This is a different issue. If a woman's life is endangered because of unsafe abortion in any state, does that not stop us referring her to trial? This should be our responsibility; we should try to help those who encounter real dangers that jeopardize their lives.

The Norwegian prime minister said a law was issued in Norway 15 years ago leaving the decision on abortion to the woman. But, she added, the abortion rate is very low in Norway—among the lowest in the world—and there are no illegal abortions there, she explained.

She said that abortion is not, has not, and should not be a family planning method. What happened was a misinterpretation of my words, she explained, adding: Every individual should be entitled to plan his life and his family's life. This should be the approach that every family pursues.

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland added that abortion is a different issue and should be avoided as far as possible. But when it is necessary it should be safely conducted. I seize this opportunity to explain this. We must make abortion a safe process when there is a miscarriage, instead of endangering the lives of many women.

Asked whether she expects the conference to reach an understanding on the disputed issues, she said: I believe that most delegations will try to achieve the best possible result to benefit from all the contributed work and produce

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a good, constructive document that can combine the greatest number of views and issues with the greatest understanding.

She said there is great interest in developing the best possible document. This will certainly be a great gain for the Cairo conference over the previous conference 10 years ago, she said. States are more prepared than ever to look at the population issue in a wider perspective to fight poverty, enhance development, and provide education and health services. This is a very important development, she noted.

The Norwegian prime minister pointed out that many states have witnessed significant development. Individuals voluntarily chose to have smaller families, as in Norway, she explained. She stressed that the opportunity should be given to people to raise their standards of living, provide real support to men and women, and plan to protect them and guarantee them and their children a dignified life.

Botswana Minister: Language Causing Controversy

MB0709072794 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 0510 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] The minister of labor and home affairs, Mr. Patrick Balopi, has blamed the controversy over the issue of abortion at the World Population Conference in Cairo on the use of wrong language. Mr. Balopi, who is leading Botswana's delegation to the conference, told delegates yesterday that he was confident that once proper ways are found to address the issue everyone will agree that there is nothing offensive about it.

The minister, who is also the vice president of the Parliamentary Action Committee of the conference said the problem now is that delegates are putting more emphasis on the sexual and reproductive health for individual families and women in particular. He observed that parliamentarians at the conference have a crucial role to play in their countries to ensure that laws are passed and enacted protecting women's rights and opportunities for self-development. He said this can be achieved through the creation by both government and society of material conditions to ensure that these rights are enjoyed by all.

[Words indistinct] Radio Botswana says delegates have so far agreed that education is very crucial in addressing the issue of gender equality and the employment of women. They have also agreed to translate their personal commitment into action.

Mubarak Interviewed on Agenda

NC0609182994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has given an interview to the Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, which will appear in tomorrow's issue. In that interview, the president described the convocation of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo as an opportunity for Muslims to state their views and explain the tenets of the Islamic faith that are in harmony with our time.

President Mubarak said that, as an Islamic country, we stand up for Islamic values. He denounced the campaigns against the ICPD and refuted claims that decisions issued by the ICPD are linked with U.S. aid. The president said: For the umpteenth time I say that no one has threatened us and that we do not accept threats from any country or side. Our relations with the United States are ones of friendship and mutual respect.

Mubarak stressed that every Egyptian and Arab knows that neither Egypt nor Husni Mubarak tolerates threat or pressure. This has been true in the past and it will remain true in the future. Why the misinformation, the president asked.

Some people, the president added, took a couple of words out of context from the ICPD agenda and drew sensational conclusions. Others, also failing to read the full ICPD agenda, took these conclusions at face value.

President Mubarak said the ICPD's convocation was no surprise because the decision to hold it was made three years ago. The ICPD is organized by the United Nations and not Egypt. Its agenda is known to all countries and many conferences were held to draw up its agenda. The agenda incorporated a multiplicity of opinions expressed by the countries that attended these meetings.

President Mubarak reiterated that we in Egypt have nothing to do with the agenda of the conference. Egypt is preparing a special agenda for its delegation. There is no reason to link or confuse Egypt with the agenda, Mubarak stated.

Every Arab, the president added, has the right to be proud that the conference is being held on Egyptian soil because this will enable us to express our views. He stressed that the conference is a chance for Islamic countries to let the world learn more about the principles of Islam. This is an opportunity that many Islamic countries, including us, intend to use.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt is free to adopt the recommendations issued by the conference in a way that suits its religion, Constitution, laws, and traditions. He stressed that the recommendations will not be forced upon any participant.

The conference, Mubarak added, does not aim to promote abortion, homosexuality, or controversy. It deals with such crucial issues as education, nutrition, health, development, and many other matters of general interest and benefit. [passage omitted]

7 September

Ethiopian Prime Minister Urges Pooled Resources

AB0809075994 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia in English to Neighboring Countries 1630 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Tamirat Layne has said in Cairo that the program of action to be adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development

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[ICPD] needs not only the commitment of national government, but also pooling of global resources. Addressing the conference on population and development yesterday, the premier said the program of action to be adopted by the council must recognize the cultural and social realities of member states in finding solutions to the population and development problems peculiar to those countries. [passage omitted]

While in Cairo the prime minister held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Prime Minister Tamirat said on the occasion that the scheduled total withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping force from Somalia, might encourage the people to step up their efforts to resolve their problem by themselves. He said the intervention of the United Nations was a beleaguered [as heard] action based on incorrect assessment of the situation in that country. President Mubarak on his part said countries of the sub-region including Ethiopia must also exert efforts to speed up the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia. On the issue of fundamentalists, President Mubarak said the government lacked any organized form in Egypt and was instigated from abroad. [sentence as heard] He said individuals caught during the murderers' mission have admitted receiving money from sources.

Egypt's Mubarak Sees 'Unique Opportunity'

NC0709160594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] provides a unique opportunity to elucidate the principles of the Islamic religion. In a statement made after opening a complex of halls at the Cairo International Conference Center, he said that the world does not believe in the policy of rejection but wants explanation and persuasion. He pointed out that the ICPD is an international conference and that Egypt is only a member and has nothing to do with its agenda, noting that all countries participated in the preparation for this conference. He noted that the ICPD agenda is known to all countries and that discussions and explanations took place over it but this will not worry us. He said that the Islamic and Christian countries met together and that all parties defended the religious principles they adopt.

President Mubarak pointed out that no country in the world can impose on us principles that contravene our true religion and, at the same time, the Muslims cannot impose on the Christians anything that contravenes their religion. He called on the participants in the ICPD to share their views on the proposed topics. He said that anyone who disagrees with any article can show his reservations, stressing that if we find anything that contravenes the teachings of the Islamic religion we will not agree to it. He said that we must explain to the whole world the teachings of the Islamic religion and its tolerance, particularly regarding women's rights. He added that we must also explain to the world that terrorism has nothing to do with Islam, which advocates love, cooperation, and justice. He stated that Islam does not allow abortion unless a woman's health condition forces her to resort to abortion to save her life.

Regarding the apologies from certain countries, including Saudi Arabia, for not attending the conference, President Mubarak said that those countries are free to adopt the stance they want and that they did not apologize to Egypt but to the United Nations, noting that Saudi Arabia has its own special circumstances that we understand well. He said that we can speak at the conference on behalf of the Saudis if there is anything that contravenes the Islamic religion. He described relations with Saudi Arabia as extremely good and not marred by anything, adding that if certain people say that this apology has anything to do with Egypt it is untrue.

President Mubarak pointed out that those who were agitated at the beginning had based their stance on erroneous information and did not logically consider the issues that the ICPD will discuss. He said that he heard a woman ask if the ICPD will allow a man to get married to a man and a woman to a woman, wondering if this is reasonable. He said: We have minds to think and this woman was simple-minded and wanted to understand the truth about the ICPD. He wondered if it is possible for the ICPD to discuss such a thing, adding that if anyone wants to talk about anything in his country he is free to do so and we have nothing to do with him.

Discussing a statement by the head of the Iranian delegation at the ICPD that his country approves 90 percent of the ICPD document, President Mubarak said: I was happy to see an Iranian delegation attend the ICPD because it is an Islamic country and its participation is considered to be an addition to Islamic cooperation. He said: I greet Iran for attending the conference and I wish it success. He said that if Iran approves 90 percent of the ICPD document, certainly no one will approve the issues that infringe on divine laws and religious principles, be he Muslim, Christian, or Jew.

Hopes Results 'in Line' With Religion

NC0709143794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1319 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has voiced his hope that the resolutions of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] will be in line with religious principles, Islamic shari'ah, and the teachings of Christianity and Judaism. In a statement to foreign reporters after inspecting the Egyptian products fair today, President Mubarak expressed his belief that if the ICPD releases anything that contravenes religious principles, it will not be acceptable. He said: All the countries are meeting, talking, and defending religion and principles. I hope the meetings will produce good results for mankind, the family, education, and the issues concerning humanity.

Responding to a question on whether the ICPD reflects a clash of cultures and religions, President Mubarak said

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that these are disparities between the laws of states and not clashes between cultures, civilizations, and religions. He said: There are the Islamic, Christian, and Jewish religions, and there are certain disagreements. I maintain that our religion, Islam, is more liberated.

On the nature of differences at the ICPD, President Mubarak said that we must not mention these differences now because we have a week of discussions before making decisions. We will voice reservations about any differences if they contravene the state's religion.

Egyptian Minister on Vatican's 'Nonnegotiable' Stand

NC0709100994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of population affairs and deputy chairman of the International Conference on Development and Population [ICPD], has stated that clear progress was made on all contentious issues at the conference, most importantly the issue of abortion, but more work remains to be done.

Commenting to MENA on the Vatican's position on the conference document, particularly on the subject of abortion, Dr. Mahran pointed out that the Vatican delegation had come to the conference with a nonnegotiable position and with no desire to engage in a dialogue, whereas all the countries, whether Islamic, Christian, or otherwise, discuss and present their views. He added that the Islamic states agree with us on our goals.

Dr. Mahran praised the position of the Arab and Islamic states. He noted that 90 percent of the Arab states have contributed positively to the conference, adding that the Arab nation has an important and crucial position in the world community, pointing in this respect to the Arab Population Conference held in the Jordanian capital and the Amman Declaration issued by the conference.

Dr. Mahran noted that the Egyptian delegation meets daily before and after the meetings. In addition, representatives from the delegation take part in the debate and they keep constantly in touch with the delegation, he added.

Egypt's Musa Comments on Document's Rephrasing

NC0709132994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has noted a growing tendency at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] to reject abortion as a family planning approach.

He added that the participating delegations are about to find much better phrasing on this point.

Speaking to reporters today, Musa said that the abortion issue dominated much of the discussion at the conference, because it conflicts with religious teachings and cultural traditions in many parts of the world.

The foreign minister added that the phrasing of the ICPD document is being amended in light of the reservations and views the delegations have made on it; they will thus arrive at a phrasing that appeals to all and expresses the prevalent views of the discussion.

Musa said that the work of the conference is proceeding well and that discussions are fruitful and useful. He underlined the importance of the ICPD's discussion of the issue of world population and development.

He pointed out in this context that although advanced states do not suffer from a population problem at present, their consumption of natural resources is 20 times that of the developing states. To achieve economic growth in the developing states, the exploitation of natural resources must be rationalized against the constant population increase, he said, adding that this will be vital for the world's future in the next 20 years.

Egyptian Official Views Abortion Compromise

NC0709120194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—The main committee of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] resumed its sessions this morning to continue discussion of the conference's document, particularly Chapters seven and eight, which relate to sex education, abortion, and care for teenagers.

Ambassador Jilan 'Allam, deputy assistant foreign minister for political affairs and member of the Egyptian delegation, has stated that progress was made yesterday toward a compromise draft covering all views on abortion. She added that the Egyptian delegation had contributed considerably toward reaching this draft, taking into consideration the positions of all states and the reservations made on the subject.

On the Vatican's categoric rejection of abortion for any reason whatsoever, Ambassador 'Allam said that the committee members have decided to give it more time to agree on a final draft that will be acceptable to all parties. She pointed out that the compromise draft stipulates that the subject will be left up to each country to decide on according to its customs and circumstances. She noted that the mere reference to this matter in the final draft of the document means much progress has been made during the consultations.

Ambassador 'Allam hoped that the Cairo conference will not come up with many reservations on some of the paragraphs or resort to voting on the document's clauses. For this reason, she added, consultations continue among the delegates on compromise wording emphasizing the world's determination to achieve prosperity for mankind. She noted that a breakthrough in drafting an acceptable resolution on the question of abortion would give the main committee the opportunity to complete its discussion and endorsement of the remaining subjects in the document, adding that there is near agreement on these subjects, which are not controversial.

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Cuban Delegate Denounces U.S. Economic Embargo

PA0709151994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1229 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (EFE)—Today, Wednesday, Cuba took advantage of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to once again condemn "the unfair and disgraceful blockade" the United States maintains against the island. According to the Cuba delegate, the blockade is responsible for sparking the "illegal exodus" of Cuban "rafters."

In her speech before a plenary session, Vilma Espin, head of the Cuban delegation, president of the Cuban Women's Federation [FMC], and Central Committee member, praised Cuba's "accomplishments" over the past 35 years on social, educational, health, and women's issues. Most of all, she blamed the United States for the country's current problems.

She also acknowledged that the "drastic changes" which have taken place throughout the world over the past five years "have had an especially negative impact on the Cuban economy," more than 80 percent of which depended on trade with the former socialist bloc.

Along with this "critical loss," added the wife of Cuban Vice President Raul Castro, we must include the "unfair and criminal economic, trade, and financial blockade imposed for more than 30 years" by the United States against Cuba.

She stressed: "Today, this situation significantly and directly limits our opportunities for sustained development, and it specifically undermines the import of food and medicine," while "jeopardizing the positive social and demographic accomplishments obtained so far."

Although acknowledging that in Cuba, "as well as in every other developing country, there has always been emigration for economic reasons," the U.S. embargo "constitutes the main instrument encouraging the illegal exodus" from the island which has created an "extremely severe situation."

Espin pointed out that, despite all of this, "our demographic indicators have not experienced any reversions thanks to the meticulous attention" which, she stressed, continues to be paid to issues such as health, education, and social welfare.

The Cuban representative charged that "on the verge of the 21st century, differences between rich and poor continue to grow," even though it was said that with the end of the Cold War, resources used to build weapons would be used to benefit humanity.

Espin stated that although birth rates in Latin America and the Caribbean have dropped from 6 to 3.5 children per woman, poverty is still "pressing as result of structural adjustment policies and neoliberal formulas that in no way take social welfare into account."

In terms of the issues that have been debated at the ICPD, Vilma Espin provided an "overall view of development" adopted by Cuba since the 1959 revolution which in no way requires the formulation of specific "birth controls or limits."

She added, "Our experience is a clear indication that the solution to demographic problems is closely related to economic and social transformations," where "programs implemented aimed at improving women's status" have occupied a primary position.

As such, the "intersectorial and multidisciplinary Sexual Education Program is aimed at promoting women's status in every sphere, whether social, political, cultural, or economic," Vilma Espin explained.

Iranian Delegation Head Meets Egypt's Musa

NC0709135994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of the Iranian delegation to the Third International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] currently being held in Cairo.

Taskhiri stated that the meeting was positive and that Minister Musa demonstrated a good and sincere desire to guarantee success for that important international conference. We sensed a positive desire to achieve a harmonious Islamic viewpoint on the conference's document, he said.

Taskhiri asserted that the Egyptian and Iranian views are in agreement on the conference's document. He expressed his belief that this will curb the document's weak points and enhance the strong points from the Islamic perspective.

He added that the views Iran expressed at the ICPD revolve around its belief that the problem is not limited to the population explosion alone, which is only part of the problem. There is also the problem of exploiting natural resources in a way that solves the problem of the unfair distribution of wealth, Taskhiri said.

He remarked that the population problem is an existing problem. We must think of how to resolve it, and Islamic states must express Islam's view on it, he stressed.

China Opposes 'Coercive' Population Control

OW1609034694 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1432 GMT 7 Sep 94

[By reporter Liu Shun (0491 7311)]

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (XINHUA)— Peng Peiyun, China's state councillor and minister in charge of the State Family Planning Commission, who is attending the International Population and Development Conference here met with Sadik, executive chairman of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities [UNFPA] and secretary general of the current conference.

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During the meeting, Peng Peiyun said as a whole cooperation between China and UNFPA over the past decade has been quite good. She expressed the hope that UNFPA would continue to abide by the principles of universality, neutrality, and independence in providing aid.

Sadik said UNFPA would continue to cooperate with China.

Today, Peng Peiyun also met with Wirth, head of the U.S. delegation. She said the sovereignty of each country formulating its own population policy in line with its population situation and with its specific domestic reality should be respected. Nations with different domestic situations have worked together to seek better ways of solving the issue of population and development. She added that it is necessary to abide by the spirit of seeking common ground while reserving differences and to solve problems by consultations.

She stressed that in implementing family planning work, China has always persisted in launching widespread publicity and education, in providing good services, and in opposing all forms of coercive orders.

Peng Peiyun and her party arrived in Cairo on 3 September to attend the Third International Population and Development Conference.

Group of 77 Considers Role at Conference

JN0709173294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Minister of Labor Mr. Khalid al-Ghizawi, head of Jordan's delegation to the population conference on development [as heard], now under way in Cairo, said the Group of 77 had met on the sidelines of the population conference under the Algerian delegate. He said the meeting is to settle the role of the group in the forthcoming decisions of the Cairo conference.

Mr. al-Ghizawi said the focus was on two points: The first is the adherence of the members to the resolutions of the group, and the second is the importance of the role that the group may play in view that it is the biggest of other international blocs. The minister said the group is now preparing a paper, illustrating its attitude. He said the members of the group have asked the cancellation of the term: especially the Third World, from the first paragraph of the preamble.

Also the Pakistani delegate demanded the addition of the term: religious beliefs, to Article 16 of the preamble. The minister said a meeting was also convened to consider the relationship between UN-arranged conferences. He said the delegates discussed the agenda of the upcoming Istanbul meeting to review the UN Commission on Human Settlements and its work plan for the next two decades.

IPU Supports Recommendations, Rejects Abortion

NC0809064194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The International Parliamentary Union [IPU] has declared its support for the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] currently being held in Cairo. IPU President Michael Marshall has affirmed that the conference is considered an important event and has called for comprehensive international growth.

This was revealed at the news conference held at the end of the sessions for parliamentarians held on the occasion of the ICPD. The IPU president noted that all parliamentarians around the world support the meetings on the problems of population and development. The IPU statement affirmed three basic pillars in approaching population matters. These are: Respect for the rights of individuals, recognition of national sovereignty, and equality between people, sexes, and generations.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur noted that the Egyptian People's Assembly plays a role in discussing population issues. He pointed out that no aid or grants can be approved if they violate the principle of national sovereignty. He affirmed that every state is free to adopt the programs and legislation it wants. Dr. Surur affirmed that the IPU rejects abortion. He pointed out that the status of women should be strengthened and attention should be given to progress, education, and health. He said the programs for family planning and reproductive health are based on free and individual choice. He noted that the rich countries have welcomed the chance to help the poor countries to realize comprehensive development, since the whole world is a small village and the well-being of these rich countries depends on the stability and prosperity of the poor countries.

Panamanian Delegate States Position on Conference

PA0809162694 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Report by Jose Ivan Ramos; from the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] Panamanian delegates at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] will not support any birth control method that approves of abortion because it is illegal under Panamanian law.

The controversial issue of using abortion as a method of family planning has been the principal topic of discussion among all the delegates from the 170 countries participating in the ICPD, which is being held in Cairo, Egypt. Health Minister Aida Lidia de Rivera and a Legislative Assembly delegation led by Adolfo Name, chairman of the Legislative Health Commission, are representing Panama at the conference. Name will reportedly leave today for Cairo.

According to Name, Panama will support the document approved at the conference, but will not approve any language that favors abortion.

[Begin Name recording] The document would force us to approve abortion as a family planning method. I feel that the existing Legal Code and the Constitution—I do not

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recall exactly the specific article—do not allow the legalization of abortion. [end recording]

Abortion has been severely criticized by Muslims and the Catholic Church, which will not approve the document if abortion is endorsed as a family planning method.

[Begin recording] [Name] As I told you, the health minister has been instructed to adopt the document, because it is wide-ranging. I think all of us must read the document. Then we can decide whether or not to adopt it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you support all the points in the Cairo Declaration?

[Name] We support most of them.

[Second unidentified correspondent] In general, do you approve of abortion as a birth control method?

[Name] No, we do not approve of abortion. [end recording]

The UN-organized conference will also discuss family planning, education, and development, as well as the issue of human trafficking, particularly women and children.

Central America Supports Vatican Stance

PA0809204094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2301 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The governments of Central America and the Dominican Republic today adopted the Vatican's position that totally rejects abortion as a family planning method.

Delegates from Central America and the Caribbean nation stated their rejection of abortion and asked for respect for life from the moment of conception and recognition of the family as the basic unit of society.

During a news conference, Honduran representative Gracia Zuniga and Dominican Republic representative Jacqueline Malagon affirmed support for the declaration signed in August by the Central American and Belizean presidents that condemned the liberalization of abortion.

"To recognize the right to have an abortion in a UN document would be contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that affirms respect for the right to life," they added.

On the third working day of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which began in Cairo on 5 September, the Central American nations joined the Vatican in its efforts to prevent the mention of abortion in the conference's final declaration.

The 14,000 representatives from 180 countries attending the conference decided to postpone the debate on the abortion issue until Friday.

Rafael Artona, representative of the Nicaraguan Pro-Life Association, said his country is being pressured by the U.S. Government to take a "tough, hard stand on family planning."

Artona added that President Bill Clinton's administration is funding non-governmental organizations that favor abortion, such as the "Aprofamilia" group that received approximately $5 million between 1993 and 1994 for its sterilization programs.

During the ICDP, which is scheduled to end 13 September, a declaration on slowing down the world's demographic growth by the 21st Century will be debated and approved.

This is considered a very controversial conference because the issues regarding abortion and women's control over reproduction have been rejected by the Vatican and Catholic countries, as well as by Islamic states.

Brazilian Support for Text Expressed

PY0809032894 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 7 Sep 94 p 15

[By Kristina Michahelles]

[Text] Cairo—Brazil fully supports the contents of the document that is being discussed at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]. In a speech at the plenary session, Social Welfare Minister Leonor Franco confirmed Brazil's wish to see a consensus regarding the text, which establishes the bases for demographic policies worldwide for the next two decades.

The Brazilian minister reiterated Brazil's position regarding the Constitution (which supports family planning). She said that although abortion is prohibited by law, legislation allows this solution in two cases: When the life of the pregnant woman is at risk, and in pregnancies resulting from rape. She also confirmed the importance the Brazilian Government attaches to the family, which is "the fundamental nucleus of society."

"The relationship between all sorts of demographic policies and respect for human rights cannot be denied, particularly the procreative rights of women," Leonor Franco said. She showed concern over teenagers: "They deserve special treatment regarding education and family planning."

On the second day of debates about the Action Program, the central issues continue to be abortion, fertility control, and sexual education. In a three-page communique, the Holy See confirmed that it deems inadmissible the parts of the document that refer to abortion and to support for a more liberal sexual life among teenagers without considering parents' rights and without referring to family rights. The Vatican asserted that it has reservations about the term "family planning," and indicated that the expression must be interpreted in the light of Catholic ethics.

The Vatican communique did not mention the effort being made to find new conceptions for the most controversial

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paragraphs of the document. The new draft indicates that abortion must be discouraged, although it is one of the many options women have regarding their reproductive health assistance, always in accordance with the national laws. The communique does not seem to indicate that the Holy See will sign the final declaration.

U.S. Under Secretary of State Timothy Wirth said that Vice President Al Gore had a "cordial, constructive, and conciliatory talk in pursuit of a consensus" with the chief of the Vatican delegation, Bishop Martino. Wirth indicated that all words used by Gore to describe the talk begin with "c," but he forgot that the word controversial also begins with the same letter.

Swaziland Prime Minister Says Departure Not Walkout

MB0809073094 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 8 Sep 94 pp 1, 32

[Report by Martin Dlamini]

[Text] Swaziland did not walk out of a controversial population summit presently held in Cairo, Egypt, the Prime Minister, Prince Mbilini said yesterday.

Prince Mbilini said he has returned home a week earlier, because he had completed his duties.

"The first session involving the premiers had been officially closed," he explained.

Reports of some participating countries walking out of the summit were carried in the international press and Prince Mbilini's unexpected return raised local suspicion that he was among those who walked out.

He said he was not aware of participating countries having "walked out" on the conference other than that there was a "conflict" of ideas.

The Premier was speaking in an interview on his arrival at Matsapha airport from the International Conference on population and development [ICPD] held in Cairo, Egypt.

"I am not aware of any quarrel having occurred among the government leaders, that is, while I was still at the conference.

"All I know is that the countries differed in opinion with regards to methods of controlling the high birth rate," explained the premier.

He arrived with part of the delegation that had attended the conference. The rest of the delegation, he said, was still in Egypt and will return after the closure of the big meet, in which Swaziland will be a signatory.

The conference has been organised by the United Nations.

It is being held to discuss the increased birth rate in the African states, which is rated as the highest in the world.

The conference is expected to devise ways and means to curb the high birth rate.

One of the topics being discussed is the possibility of legalising abortion.

The topic, according to International press reports, has come under attack from church leaders who are against legalisation of abortion.

Prince Mbilini said that during the meeting of the Premiers, it was resolved that countries with existing cultural methods of birth control, continue with them.

He said it was agreed that these countries will be respected for their methods.

He said Swaziland made it clear to the conference that it has methods like family planning, sex education in schools and an 89 percent immunisation campaign, which are all progressing successfully.

8 September

RSA Minister Addresses Conference

MB0809133894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1301 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo Sept 8 SAPA—South Africa's government of national unity was committed to provide services that improved its people's mental, physical, social and health well-being, the minister of welfare and population development, Mr Abe Williams, said on Thursday [8 September]. In an address to the International Conference on Population and Development here, he said this would be done through a primary health care approach, integrating preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services.

"Here the challenge is to build on the existing family planning service by improving the range of contraceptive choices and by incorporating the prevention and treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases, including HiV/AIDS, cervical cancer and infertility," Mr Williams said.

The recent democratic transition in South Africa provided the opportunity for tackling development issues within a legitimate government framework. For South Africa the conference was an event on a par with the country's recent acceptance as a member of the OAU, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and the resumption of its seat in the United Nations General Assembly on June 23 1994.

South Africa was already playing an active role in Africa's affairs as a member of the OAU, and only last week the country had been admitted to the Southern African Development Community.

"On each of these occasions, South Africa has committed itself to be an active and responsible member of the world community and our region. We wish to make the same commitment here today," Mr Williams said. He wished to place on record that South Africa endorsed the recommendations of the third African population conference held in

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Dakar, Senegal, in December 1992, on population, family and sustainable development.

Because South Africa's population was so young—an estimated 40 percent was under 15—special educational and training facilities and employment would have to be provided for them.

British Minister Urges Compromise

MS0909120294 London THE TIMES in English 9 Sep 94 p 15

[Report by Michael Binyon: "Chalker Calls for Compromise by Cairo Delegates"]

[Text] Cairo—Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, warned the Cairo population conference yesterday not to waste time on trying to cross divides that could not be bridged.

Without mentioning by name the Vatican and its hard core of ten supporting nations, she urged those who were unable to accept compromise wording on contentious passages, especially abortion, to enter their reservations immediately. "This would surely be better than seeking to undermine the majority view and creating a time-wasting deadlock," she told delegates. "Our time is not only precious, but very, very costly." Her remarks were applauded warmly by most of the 170 nations here, many of which are now openly hostile to the Vatican and what they see as the disproportionate influence the Holy See has had on discussions. They also have begun to ask why one religion should have representative status at this conference whereas Islam, Buddhism and other religions do not.

The European Union [EU] agreed yesterday on its position on abortion with the four aspirant EU members and nine delegations from Eastern Europe, including Russia. The vexed question has now been left to a working party and informal consultation. Lady Chalker made clear that Britain and other Western countries were ready to continue negotiating throughout the weekend and until 2am each day to prevent a breakdown.

She also said it was important to move on to the implementation of the Cairo proposals and to agree on the financing. She told the conference that the Overseas Development Administration would make 100 million pounds available over two years for population and family planning and emphasised later that none of this money would be taken from allied programmes such as help for female literacy. Instead, the money would come from reduced spending on large infrastructure projects, to which developing countries themselves now gave lower priority.

The draft declaration speaks of raising $17 billion (11 billion pounds) to pay for a 20-year global population programme. At issue has been not only the overall total, which developing countries say is too low, but the proportion paid by the rich donor nations, now a quarter. The Group of 77 developing countries wants that proportion to rise to a third. Lady Chalker said there was far more realism on all sides about resources than there had been at the Rio de Janeiro environment conference. Western nations have been heartened by the broad support from the Muslim countries represented in Cairo, especially Iran, whose delegate, a mullah, threw his country's weight behind the Cairo proposals.

However, there is worry that some Muslim countries insist on adding phrases such as "within the laws and customs of each country" after some contentious paragraphs. Nicolaas Biegman, the Dutch chairman of the main plenary session, who has been at the heart of most proposed compromises, admitted yesterday that such a phrase could undermine the force of the draft's recommendations.

Lady Chalker said such phrases appeared to condone customs such as female circumcision, adding that education was the key to eliminating them: "There is nothing the United Nations can do to force a change."

Norway's Brundtland Asked To Withdraw 'Attack'

NC0809105994 Paris AFP in English 0949 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 8 (AFP)—Iran demanded here Thursday [8 September] that Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland withdraw what it called her "attack" on religion, saying the whole existence of Muslims depended on Islam.

"We live in an ancient Islamic capital which has always served religion and religious principle," Iran's Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi told the UN International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

"Religion for us is our whole existence, our whole lives," Marandi said through an interpreter.

Marandi then called on the "prime minister of Norway to withdraw from her statement this phrase in which she attacked religion and religious beliefs."

Amid wide applause, he also appealed to the president of the conference, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, to "delete this sentence from the record of the meeting."

Marandi did not quote the statement he objected to, but Brundtland attacked hypocrisy on the opening day of the conference on Monday.

"Morality becomes hypocrisy if it means accepting mothers suffering or dying in connection with unwanted pregnancies, illegal abortion and unwanted children," Brundtland said.

She also called for abortion to be decriminalized.

The conference has been dominated by a row on abortion as the Vatican and Islamic states like Iran charge that the 113-page draft action plan—to slow birth rates—encourages abortion, extra-marital sex and homosexuality.

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But Iran and other Islamic states, unlike the Vatican, have now agreed to a compromise on a section of the draft referring to abortion.

Agreement Reported on 'South-South' Cooperation

BK1009083394 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Indonesia and nine other developing nations have agreed to cooperate in the field of population and development within the framework of South-South cooperation. Speaking at a press conference in Cairo yesterday Haryono Suyono, the Indonesian delegation leader, said 10 participating countries to the Cairo Conference are ready to implement the working programs as agreed upon during the Cairo Conference. The programs include healthy reproduction, the improvement of women's role, the improvement of women's quality through education, and the improvement of mother and child health.

The joint South-South programs are aimed at further enhancing the developing nations through activities. At the same time, it was hoped that the developed nations and international organizations would render their support for these programs.

The 10 countries which will jointly implement the population and development programs are: Indonesia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, and Egypt.

Meanwhile, in the meeting between the delegation from the Republic of Indonesia and President Husni Mubarak, an agreement was reached on a similar objective: that the outcome of the Cairo Conference would bring about benefits to mankind, particularly to the global Islamic community.

Nicaraguan Delegation Rejects 'Any' Abortion

PA0909163194 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Sep 94

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government delegation has made known its rejection of any type of abortion at the Third International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]. The government's position was stated by Social Action Minister William Baez, who is heading the Nicaraguan delegation attending the worldwide conference.

Baez has said: We reject abortion not only as a method for family planning but also [words indistinct] maternity without risk [words indistinct] unsafe abortion.

Women's Group Protests Focus on Abortion

NC0809132694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—The Women's Group belonging to the Forum of Popular Associations and Nongovernmental Organizations has protested the fact that discussions and deliberations at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] are focusing only on the issue of abortion as the major factor underlying all the problems facing women while ignoring all the other problems that are more serious and critical for women and their development.

At a press conference in the covered hall at Cairo International Stadium today attended by a number of participants in the ICPD discussions, the Woman's Group justified the protest by saying that the official delegations taking part in the conference have overlooked the issues of illiteracy, poverty, the spread of disease, and issues relating to working women, focusing instead on the issue of abortion alone. This has led world and local media to take the same direction, they said.

The group pointed out that this approach triggered the Vatican's initial reaction toward the ICPD, thus steering discussion to one item out of all the things bearing on population and development.

At the beginning of the news conference, speaking on behalf of Arab women, Emile Naffa', chairman of the Jordanian Association for the Development of Women, said that the Arab group demands that governments reject the use of abortion as a family planning method and work at the same time to provide the health service necessary for "safe abortions" in cases where pregnancy jeopardizes the woman's or baby's lives, without conflicting with the teachings of heavenly religions.

She added that Arab nongovernmental organizations call on the world governments to write off the debts of Third World states to enable them to bridge the gaps between north and south, male and female.

She also appealed to world states to cut spending on arms and channel the funds thus saved toward sustainable development, and to renounce war as a means of resolving disputes among states.

States Form 'Partners in Population, Development'

NC0809154794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Some 10 developing countries that have registered success and progress in their population programs today established a south group named "Partners in Population and Development Matters."

The forming of the group was announced during a news conference at the Cairo International Conference Center today. The countries involved are Egypt, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe.

Dr. Mahir Mahran, Egyptian minister of state for population and development and deputy chairman of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], said that the idea for the group emerged a year

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ago. The group is designed to let members benefit from each other's experience and convey the information to other developing countries. [passage omitted]

Musa on Document, Vatican Position, Iran

NC0809154094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, head of the Egyptian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] currently being held in Cairo, said that the talks he held today with the heads of delegations participating in the conference focused on the disputed points and the other sections of the document the conference will issue.

Musa pointed out that the document deals with development projects and the issues that concern all women, mothers, and cooperation between states within the framework of the United Nations to address the problem of population increase in a manner that takes into consideration the position of individual societies and their religious and ethical values.

Speaking to reporters today, the foreign minister pointed out that there are varying viewpoints on a number of issues. He affirmed that progress is being made in rephrasing those points of light of the Egyptian and other proposals. He added that the proposals would handle the issues in dispute, particularly that of abortion, which is one of the hotly disputed points.

The foreign minister pointed out that an agreement has been reached on a number of texts that address the issue of abortion, particularly those that state that abortion is not a family planning technique; that it is subject to the laws, legislations, and values of individual states; that it should not be given priority either as a means or an end; and that it should be handled in "the most restricted limits" and within the context of the laws that govern it.

The Egyptian foreign minister pointed out that the principles that will govern the document the ICPD issues will emphasize respect for the principles of religion, ethics, traditions, and laws.

Musa added that the participating delegations commended the efforts Egypt made to organize the conference and the resources it contributed to facilitate its work and the movement of participants.

Mentioning the financing of development projects in developing states, 'Amr Musa said that more of the funding should come from advanced states. This does not mean that developing states themselves cannot provide funding, which is very important, he explained.

He added that the conference will resume work at the committee level during the next three days in an attempt to tackle the difficult issues.

As for the Vatican's stance, particularly on abortion, Musa said that the Vatican has not changed its position and that they will continue to look for an acceptable formula. The Vatican will determine its final position in light of the new phrasing.

Touching on Iran's stance, 'Amr Musa said that it is good and clear. He affirmed that there is cooperation and consultation between the Egyptian and Iranian delegations concerning the issues under discussion. He remarked that the two sides agree on many points.

In his statements, Musa said that Egypt, as President Husni Mubarak himself said yesterday, has welcomed Iran and its participation in the ICPD. He affirmed that there is close cooperation between the two countries' delegations, adding: There is a historic relationship between Iran and Egypt. We hope the confusion in our relations in the past will be a passing cloud that will eventually end in rapprochement between the two peoples and states.

Iran's Taskhiri on ICPD, Ties With Egypt

NC0809161094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, Iranian minister of health and chief of the Iranian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] currently being held in Cairo, has expressed his belief that Egypt is sincere in its desire to arrive at a document that is in line with the cultural values of the Islamic nation.

In statements to reporters today, Taskhiri emphasized the need for cooperation among Islamic delegations taking part in the conference, particularly the Egyptian and Iranian delegations, to develop an acceptable document that can be presented to the world and can create a positive impression.

Asked whether he believes that the conference marks a new phase in Egyptian-Iranian relations, Taskhiri said that relations between the Egyptian and Iranian people are at their best and that they never stopped despite political differences. He added that these relations go back a long way in history.

Touching on the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq, the Iranian minister called for releasing all the Kuwaiti and Iranian POW's who are under the control of the Iraqi regime. He also called for compliance with UN resolutions on this matter, stating that "Iraq should realize this."

Regarding Iranian-Iraqi relations, Taskhiri said: We are neighbors; it is natural to have relations without violating UN resolutions.

Asked about Iran's relations with the Gulf states, the Iranian minister emphasized the need for good relations between his country and the Gulf states.

Explaining Iran's stance on terrorism, Taskhiri reiterated that his country condemns terrorism. Many of the terrorism charges raised all over the world are fabricated, he said. He added: There is state terrorism, like that exercised

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by Israel. This terrorism is being described as normal. Meanwhile, the actions undertaken by strugglers who defend their rights are described as terrorism. Hence, there should be a distinction between the two actions, he stressed.

Notes 'Similarity' on Document

LD0809184494 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Athens, Sep. 8, IRNA—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of foreign relations of the office of the leader of the Islamic revolution, in Cairo Wednesday and exchanged views on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM Thursday reported.

Taskhiri, who is leading the Iranian delegation to ICPD, described his meeting with Musa as "positive and brotherly" and said both countries were interested in greater joint works in various fields. He said Musa displayed a spirit of "goodwill and sincerity" for the success of the ICPD. The ayatollah said they found the scope in coordinating a common Islamic viewpoint on the conference document very positive and added that there was complete similarity of views between Egypt and Iran towards the document.

"I think this will lead to reduction of the weaker points in the document and strengthen the stronger points in it from the Islamic viewpoint," AL-AHRAM quoted Taskhiri.

The paper published a photo of the meeting between the two men.

Many Islamic and Catholic countries have called for the removal of some controversial points in the 113-page document, saying those points undermined religious faith.

Meanwhile, Taskhiri also met the grand sheikh of al-Azhar, Jad al-Haq, yesterday, Cairo daily AL-AHRAR Thursday reported.

Taskhiri praised the position of al-Azhar condemning the anti- Islamic clauses in the document and said the Iranian delegation insisted on participating in the ICPD to defend Islam together with al-Azhar, the oldest Sunni Islamic seat of learning in the world.

Egyptian Denies Misunderstanding With Vatican

NC0809155294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Mahir Mahran, Egyptian minister of state for population and family affairs and deputy chairman of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has announced that the conferees will soon arrive at a final phrasing on the item concerning abortion in the ICPD final statement that should appeal to the largest possible number of participants.

During a news conference he held today, he said that after follow-up discussions in the Forum of Nongovernmental Organizations in the covered hall at the Cairo International Stadium the phrasing will be based on the principle that abortion is not a family planning method, as well as on the need to take a woman's health into consideration.

The state minister for population pointed out that the OAU has submitted an official request to the conference to pay more attention to the issues of debt and comprehensive development, since abortion has already taken up much of the ICPD discussion. The request noted that abortion is not a major issue in Africa.

Dr. Mahran denied reports about a misunderstanding between Egypt and the Vatican. He pointed out that he met in his office today with the chief of the Vatican delegation, Renato Martino, who told him that the Vatican is not against family planning.

The minister noted that he received an invitation to visit the Vatican and that he will respond to the invitation soon.

The minister of state for population reiterated the official Egyptian stance on abortion: It is not a family planning method. He affirmed that we are committed to the teachings of Islam, which prohibit abortion. He emphasized that: "We do not take orders from East or West." We do not impose our will on others and we refuse to be dictated to by others, he said.

Official Explains Government Position on Abortion

PA0909172094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1642 GMT 8 Sep 94

[By Rocio Santana]

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (NOTIMEX)—A high-ranking Mexican official said here today Mexican legislation concerning the topic of population specifies when abortions are authorized and when they are penalized; therefore, the controversy on this point has been overcome.

In an interview with the Mexican press attending the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Andres Rozenthal, Mexican foreign relations under secretary, said the abortion issue should not hamper work in the meeting.

Rozenthal denied the UN sponsored ICPD Action Plan encourages the international legalization of abortion.

He said it is clear the plan is "sheltered" by the concept of state sovereignty, which allows countries to decide how to apply their policies and recommendations, in connection with this draft, based on their legislative frameworks, principles, culture, and religion.

The polemic unleashed regarding abortion is unjustified, Rozenthal said, because this issue does not mean it is making obligatory something that contravenes the will of a state.

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The official said Mexican legislation in this regard specifies when pregnancies may be terminated and when they are forbidden and penalized. Mexico's position on this controversial topic, which has hindered the meeting's work due to the refusal of the Vatican and Moslem countries to discuss the issue, will be one of respect to whatever final ICPD resolution is reached, Rozenthal said.

Rozenthal, a member of the participating Mexican delegation, said in view of the ensuing polemic over the wording of Subpart No. 8.25, which refers to abortions within the ICDP framework, a commission was appointed to take charge of modifying the article.

He said a second alternative was proposed on 6 September that included in the beginning of the text that "in no case should abortion be used as a method for family planning." This proposal was agreed to by most of the 182 participating countries, but the Vatican rejected it, arguing the alternate text could establish abortion as an international right.

Rozenthal reiterated the Action Plan does not create international rights in this regard, because the states' sovereignty acts as a "shelter," and it is up to each country to apply the recommendations.

"There is no international right to abortion; there is no international law on family planning," he said. Instead, there are population policies that countries follow based on their legal framework, customs, culture, and religion, he said.

Rozenthal insisted it is not a conference on abortion, and the overall Action Plan has plenty of important points for Mexico such as health, education, population, and migration.

Human Rights Coalition: Abortion Violates Rights

NC0809170594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—The coalition of popular associations and nongovernmental organizations concerned with human rights demanded that no part of the document to be issued by the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] include any item that permits abortion, which is a violation of a basic human right.

In a statement issued today and distributed at the Forum of Popular Associations and Nongovernmental Organizations, the coalition maintained that abortion violates the right to life of persons who cannot defend themselves: unborn children.

The statement emphasized that the ICPD should respect the laws and constitutions that protect children's lives. It affirmed that all forms of abortion, legal or otherwise, constitute a serious threat to a mother's life and health.

The statement appealed to the delegations representing states that legalize abortion not to put pressure on other states to force them to legalize it too.

Zambia Condemns Abortion for 'Population Control'

MB0809192394 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Zambia has strongly condemned abortion as a population control method or a family planning solution. Addressing the International Conference on Population Development in Cairo today, Vice President Brigadier Godfrey Miyanda said although Zambia attached great importance to population issues, it could not ignore or underplay the religious and cultural factors involved. He said to adopt a position which brushes aside religious and cultural values was naive. The vice president observed that population was a real issue and so was religion and culture.

Amendments Introduced to Sex Education Draft

NC0809191994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that a subcommittee under the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] introduced amendments to Chapter 7 of the conference's draft document regarding sex education, which has been a source of controversy and dispute among the participants.

MENA learned that the new amendments stipulate the need for couples, instead of individuals in the original text, to be able to naturally enjoy a normal and secure sex life and for couples, instead of individuals, to be aware of issues related to sexual and genital health. The amendments further stipulate the need to provide comprehensive and realistic information and to make available medical care services needed for family planning that are inexpensive, acceptable, and comfortable for users.

In the same chapter, the amendments stipulate that any programs for genital health must be in line with the traditions of the various societies. The amendments further stipulate the need to provide the necessary educational programs in the fields of family planning, sexual health, and contagious diseases. They emphasize respect for religious and ethical values and traditions in each country.

The original draft of the document stipulated the need to make sexual information available to "individuals" without mentioning couples. The new draft refers to the necessity to respect the traditions and spiritual values in each country in the field of sexual education through couples and the family.

Egyptian Grand Mufti Views Conference

BR0809150494 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 8 Sep 94 p 15

[Interview with Egyptian Grand Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi by Corrado Giustiniani in Cairo; date not given: "Islam Does Not Forbid Abortion"]

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[Excerpt] Cairo—[passage omitted] [Giustiniani] Is the Egyptian people's adherence to the Muslim religion strong at present?

[Tantawi] You must have noticed it yourselves: Look at what great cooperation there has been recently throughout the city, between the people, the troops, and the police to avert any possible terrorist action by the extremists. Since 5 September, when the UN Conference on Development and Cooperation started, there has been not a single incident. And this shows how much religious commitment is growing in our country.

[Giustiniani] The dominant theme of this conference on population is the emancipation of women. But are women not inferior to men in Islam?

[Tantawi] No; they are equal in all respects—schools, universities, employment...

[Giustiniani] So why in trials, for instance, are two female witnesses needed to counter a single male?

[Tantawi] The Koran says so: A woman is full of preoccupations—concerning her family, for instance—that can divert her attention. This is why she needs to be flanked by another woman.

[Giustiniani] Does your religion permit contraceptives?

[Tantawi] Yes, there is no problem there. Whatever the doctor prescribes is fine.

[Giustiniani] The pope, however, draws a distinction between natural methods, which are permitted, and chemical methods such as the pill, which are forbidden.

[Tantawi] I do not understand the reason for the distinction. It does not make sense to us.

[Giustiniani] What about abortion?

[Tantawi] It is permitted when the doctor prescribes it—that is, when the life of the mother and child is in danger.

[Giustiniani] Is it true that a woman cannot divorce without her husband's consent?

[Tantawi] Yes, it is true; he must agree. But there is one circumstance in which a woman can take action—if she includes possibility of divorce in the marriage contract at the outset.

[Giustiniani] Can a man obtain a divorce on his own initiative?

[Tantawi] Yes, it is easy. With a signature, everything is settled within an hour.

[Giustiniani] What if he then wants to return to his wife?

[Tantawi] He can do so, up to three times.

[Giustiniani] What if she no longer accepts him?

[Tantawi] She must accept him, up to the third time.

[Giustiniani] Is it true that there is a boom in the divorce rate in Egypt?

[Tantawi] Not any more; it is falling. The divorce rate is 5 per thousand marriages. Most marital break-ups occur in the first year.

[Giustiniani] Is it right to fight to halt the growth of the world's population?

[Tantawi] A small healthy family defends itself better than a large unhealthy family.

[Giustiniani] What recommendation would you make to this world conference?

[Tantawi] Not to counter religious creeds and the principles of mankind. Whatever may be asserted must not be obligatory. Each country must be able to make whatever decisions it wants on the road to civilization.

9 September

Colombian Vice President Addresses Conference

PA1109172894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0910 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (EFE)—One of Colombia's main objectives is the application of measures necessary "for paying the social debt that our nation has to its women," Colombian Vice President Humberto De la Calle said today. "Colombia has defined as a priority and as an explicit action a policy of participation and equality toward women" in an effort to achieve "affirmative action" for them, De la Calle said today in Cairo during his speech at the ICPD's [International Conference on Population and Development] fifth full session.

The Colombian Government's social strategy "depends to a great extent on its impact on young people and in particular on young women," he added. This is because "improving the standard of living on the long run demands the guarantee of education, health, and job opportunities that allow young women to prepare themselves to assume responsibility for their own future."

The executive branch, headed by Ernesto Samper, also has as one of its goals the "improvement of the distribution in society of the benefits of development" to allow "poor families to have access to basic social services and new jobs," he explained.

Colombia has made a commitment to "take a big social step forward" on the basis of the achievements of the four-year administration of former President Cesar Gaviria, the Colombian leader stressed. Among these achievements De la Calle listed moderation of fertility indexes, improvement in the population's health, and increases in women's life expectancy and levels of education.

Another point on which the vice president's speech focused was international cooperation and coordination,

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like that achieved by the Latin American and Caribbean Meeting on Population (1993) in Mexico, at which it was agreed "to study the possibility of overall and regional agreements on the mobilization of labor." "The integration process cannot be limited to eliminating barriers to free movement of capital and technology. They must take into account the fundamental issue of the people's mobilization," he emphasized. Likewise, implementation of the ICPD's action plan will require "fulfillment of the developed world's financial commitments," he noted.

In conclusion, the vice president mentioned controversies at the ICPD on issues like abortion, sex education, and the funding of the action plan. "It seems reasonable that in general and in those specific issues on which delegates do not reach an agreement, the common denominator should be to explicitly acknowledge respect for each nation's legislation and sovereign policies," he emphasized. "The differences have made more news than the agreements. Nevertheless, given the agreements already reached, it is realistic to think what when this conference ends millions of families who live in the developed world will have a real reason to hope for a better planet," he concluded.

Malawi Official Addresses Plenary Session

EA1009140494 Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] The vice state president, the Right Honorable Justin Malewezi, has said that the newly instituted government in pluralistic Malawi recognizes the need to uphold and observe human rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the United Nations Charter. The Rt. Honorable Malewezi said this yesterday in a speech he delivered at the plenary session of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo, Egypt. He said the Malawi Government recognizes the dignity of the individual, their self-determination, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination. [passage indistinct] The Rt. Honorable Malewezi said the government is committed to achieving sustainable population growth rates which are compatible with the country's social and economic needs.

Egyptian Opposition Parties Support Conference

NC0909102094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0832 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Most Egyptian opposition political parties agree that the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has been successful. They have declared their backing for the government's clear position on it as outlined by President Husni Mubarak's opening session speech that set forth clearly and firmly Egypt's position on the issues of economic development and population increase in a manner that is in line with humanitarian principles, ethical values, and heavenly religions.

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG], stated that the ICPD is one of the most important conferences ever and that its successful convening in Egypt marks a success for the entire human race.

The NPUG leader criticized the uproar raised over some points and details that do not constitute the fundamental premises of the conference, which deal with the vital issues of development and resources. He noted that these issues do not contravene heavenly religions.

Muhyi-al-Din said he hopes the conference will issue recommendations that will help solve population and development problems and eliminate the hurdles obstructing economic growth in the Third World.

Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad remarked that the ICPD is successful by any standard and that it will serve the international community, particularly the Third World, by issuing recommendations including broad concepts concerning population and development.

The Liberal Party leader praised President Mubarak's speech, saying it clarified numerous issues while proclaiming Egypt's commitment to its principles and tolerant religion and opposing anything contravening Islam and ethics. He noted that the president's speech stressed the danger of the population problem in the Third World if it is not remedied by comprehensive economic development.

Murad criticized the uproar over the family planning issue and explained that the cause of the uproar was the broad interpretation of this issue. He emphasized that Islam permits abortion but restricts it to abortions performed to preserve the mother's life, noting that otherwise the fetus should be preserved because it has the right to life.

Jamal Rabi', leader of the Arab Party of Egypt, reaffirmed his party's backing for the ICPD and President Mubarak's policies and guidance, which have emphasized Egypt's firm Islamic social and historical principles.

The Arab Party leader told MENA that the presence of al-Azhar and its eminent men in Egypt is sufficient rejection of any immoral phenomena that are unacceptable to Islam and to human nature in general. He said his party supports all reforms and all knowledge in tune with our religion.

He said the Arab Party of Egypt backs the ICPD's attempt to solve the problem of poverty and encourage economic growth but rejects the immoral practices that are widespread in Europe and unacceptable to most human societies and the holy scriptures.

Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad stated that the ICPD has heeded the loud criticism leveled at it in connection with particular religious and moral issues. He praised President Mubarak's speech, which clearly stated that Egypt has reservations about those provisions in the conference document that contradict religion and tradition.

The Labor Party leader praised the venerable al-Azhar position, which sought from the beginning to abolish all

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the provisions that contradict heavenly religions and our Islamic traditions. He said that, happily, the al-Azhar position rectified the course of the conference.

Muhammad Hilmi Murad said he hopes most attendees will accept the amendments made in light of this position so that the ICPD can solve population problems in a sound and acceptable way. He said: Otherwise the delegates must express explicit reservations about particular recommendations and not limit themselves to a general expression of reservations.

Hilmi Salim, secretary of the Liberal Party, said that President Mubarak's speech to the ICPD was comprehensive and realistic and outlined Egypt's position on the conference. He said this was important after the Islamic world's leaders and the other delegates demanded a firm response to any excesses, saying that such a response would effectively bar any recommendations contrary to Islamic shari'ah, values, customs, and ideals.

He added: Egypt's success in organizing the conference certifies to the world and to history Egypt's ability to implement economic development plans, steer them toward the desired goals, and shoulder its responsibility despite challenges and difficulties.

Hilmi Salim pointed out that the campaign to which the conference was subjected before it convened was caused by a lack of information about its objectives. He added that the official media effort to clarify particular issues, while somewhat delayed, explained that the ICPD's objectives focus on economic development, education, the eradication of illiteracy, culture, and the good of humanity.

Mozambican Delegate Reiterates Abortion Opposition

NC0909104794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi left Cairo today after attending the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD].

Before leaving, he said that his country will never resort to abortion as a method of family planning. He added that Mozambique, as an African country, is interested in the link between economic development and the demographic distribution of the population. He said his country wants to deal with the problem's major features such as education and backing women's rights. He explained that these issues can be developed in accordance with each country's particular policies and circumstances.

Iranian Delegate on 'Positive' Work With Egypt

LD1009101094 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 10, IRNA—Head of the Iranian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Hojatoleslam Mohammad-Ali Taskhiri described his talks with Egyptian officials and leading ulema in Cairo as "positive."

Speaking to IRNA here Friday [9 September], Hojatoleslam Taskhiri said that he had outlined Iran's stance over the ongoing conference with Foreign Minister of Egypt 'Amr Musa and a number of senior Egyptian officials.

Taskhiri added that both Iranian and Egyptian delegations had reached unprecedented agreements and coordination over the issues discussed at the conference.

However, the tripartite support of Iranian, Egyptian and Pakistani delegations for each other would change the trend of decision-making at the conference when there is the fear that Westerners may impose their non-religious ideas on the conference.

So far, the trend has changed the direction of talks in favor of Muslims states.

Group Discussing Abortion Ends Meetings

NC0909141594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1254 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Mr. Ayman al-Amir, the official spokesman for the International Conference for Population and Development [ICPD], has stated that the working group discussing the amended Paragraph 25 of Chapter 8 of the ICPD's agenda, which addresses abortion, has concluded its meetings today and has presented the results of its deliberations to the main committee.

The spokesman said that an agreement has been reached among the countries participating in the conference to add a note to this paragraph that contains the World Health Organization's [WHO] definition of unsafe abortion.

It is noteworthy that the definition set by the WHO for abortion says: Unsafe abortion is any operation with the objective of ending an undesired pregnancy performed either by people who lack the sufficient skill to perform such an operation or under circumstances where minimum medical skills are lacking, or both of the above.

The spokesman also noted that there are many countries that have asked for the term "legal abortion" to be changed to make it more acceptable to a larger group of countries with their varied doctrines and heritage.

Official ICPD spokesman Mr. Ayman al-Amir clarified that the main committee so far has discussed 10 of the 16 chapters of the ICPD's working document. [passage omitted]

Vatican Accepts Family Planning Goals

NC0909142794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Pope John Paul II of the Vatican has affirmed that he supports the goals of the

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Cairo International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in the areas of education and the family's right to plan pregnancies in morally acceptable ways.

A press statement issued by the Vatican's delegation to the conference said that the responsibility for parenthood in the draft ICPD document has become clear and has been mixed up with other issues. Therefore, the Vatican stresses the meaning of parenthood and the family's responsibility.

The statement added that the family consists of a man and a woman linked together through love and marriage. It is the family's duty to rear and support offspring.

The statement called for educating teenagers to enable them to practice self-control. The statement attacked the contents of the document regarding educating teenagers about birth control methods and abortion.

The Vatican statement said that parenthood is a responsibility for those individuals who make joint decisions in their married life.

He pointed out that this requires raising the status of women in society so that they can share the responsibility for the family with men.

Musa on Proposed Changes to Working Paper

NC0909160294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that meetings were held today on the sidelines of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] to discuss the amendments submitted by the various countries, including Egypt and the Islamic countries group, regarding Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the ICPD's working paper.

The foreign minister said Egypt submitted an amendment accepted by the Islamic countries group to deal with the expression "other forms of marriage and family." He said Egypt insisted that this paragraph be changed because of its many connotations.

He added that other delegations believe that the meaning of this expression is clear, but that some societies have different forms of families.

He noted that Egypt insists on finding a clear formula. It insists on canceling this paragraph, as well as amending anything mentioning inheritance so that it agrees with the religious stance on the subject.

'Amr Musa said that the paragraph dealing with abortion was amended radically and that the new text is much better. Nevertheless, Musa said, we are still trying to improve Paragraph 2.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egypt will soon issue an official statement on behalf of the government that all these issues, such as abortion, cannot be explained or applied except within the framework of the Islamic shari'ah, the applicable international laws, and the bases for morality.

'Amr Musa clarified that the contacts that took place before the conference were designed to amend the unacceptable texts and that the draft document is open for discussion, whether it is the paragraphs agreed upon or the others between brackets.

Regarding inheritance, discussions are currently being held to amend the relevant paragraphs, which contain translation mistakes.

Vatican Spokesman Views Debate, Abortion

NC0909160594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Joaquim Navarro Valls, official spokesman of the Vatican delegation participating in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has denied that his delegation is trying to rally countries in an attempt to foil the Cairo conference. At a news conference today, he said that since the Third Preparatory Conference that convened in New York in April, numerous delegations from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and from all over the world have contacted them to learn the Vatican's view on several of the clauses outlined in the draft document on population and development. He noted that many of these countries expressed a desire to reach a common language with the Vatican regarding abortion and other issues. He reasserted that the Vatican can never agree that abortion be a means of family planning, noting at the same time that the topic of abortion occurred more than 100 times in the document and that the Vatican would have liked other issues to be discussed and not only abortion.

The Vatican spokesman pointed out that during the Mexico Conference held in 1984 it was agreed that abortion would not be a means of family planning, but I do not understand why now when the Cairo ICPD conference document was drafted this clause was put in parentheses. He said that as a result of our stance, praise be to God, these parentheses were crossed out and the same idea was endorsed that abortion will not be a means of family planning. He referred to another substantial issue, the first in the seventh chapter of the document which says that governments must act to remove any barriers to encouraging unmarried 'adult' women to undergo abortions without turning to their families. He wondered that since the advanced nations do not have such a law why make and apply such a law in Third World countries? He stressed that every time a woman has an abortion she is not at all satisfied with herself. He called on nations that donate millions of dollars to allocate money for taking care of women and avoiding abortion.

The Vatican spokesman pointed out that many of the countries participating in the conference, be they Islamic or non-Islamic, share the Vatican's views. He noted that the issues of abortion took much of the time of the

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discussions of the 113-page document although there are other important issues such as emigration, and displaced people and their rights. He said that despite their importance these issues did not receive sufficient attention in the discussions because of lack of time. He stressed at the same time the importance of the issues being discussed at the conference which concern the whole world, issues on which all countries should concur.

The Vatican spokesman said that despite the numerous creeds and norms in the world, the Vatican agrees with all countries on basic issues such as respect for life and family as they are known in every society of the world, woman's dignity, the importance of providing a woman with adequate medical care when she has a harmful pregnancy, and the proper use of financial aid provided by rich nations to the needy developing countries. Concluding his statement, he noted that when he came to Cairo he was asked if there was an alliance between Islam and the Vatican, and said that his answer was negative. He said: I can see no problems in a meeting of divine religions on the right to life.

Al-Azhar Said Represented in Egyptian Team

NC0909172294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1608 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of population and family affairs, has stated that the al-Azhar is represented at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], since some ulemas are members of the Egyptian delegation to the ICPD.

He said his eminence the shaykh of al-Azhar issued a full statement on the topics proposed before the conference and that the al-Azhar has not been and will not be opposed to the conference.

Dr. Mahir Mahran answered questions from reporters today regarding the nonparticipation of the al-Azhar in the conference. Dr. Mahran said that one cannot claim that the al-Azhar is not participating. It is being represented by the Egyptian delegation and was represented in all the preparatory meetings.

He explained that the Vatican is being represented in the conference since it is a UN member. The al-Azhar and men of religion can participate in the meetings of nongovernmental organizations and express their opinions, though these opinions will be voiced through the official Egyptian delegation.

Vatican Withholds Approval of Abortion Paragraphs

NC0909193194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—The Vatican's delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has announced that it will withhold its approval of the current text on abortion in the ICPD's document until deliberations on the paragraphs on abortion in Chapters 7 and 8 are concluded.

The Vatican delegation said it will explain its stance when Paragraph 25 of Chapter 8 is approved by the conference.

The delegation said in a statement issued today that the Vatican has paid a great deal of attention to the subject of mother and child mortality and health hazards resulting from abortion. The delegation said it recognizes the objectives contained in Paragraph 25 of Chapter 8 of the conference document, which approaches this issue from the perspective of the woman's health.

The statement said the Vatican admits the need to offer good medical care to counter the medical problems of abortion. It approves of offering educational services and appropriate counseling to avoid abortion and help women overcome the difficulties of pregnancy. The Vatican statement expressed its welcome by confirming that abortion should not be a method for family planning and that it should not be given a legal framework by citizens and numerous countries for reasons of morality.

The statement added that this stance agrees in essence with the text of the paragraph, but not in full.

It noted that as long as the abortion issue has been raised in other paragraphs of the document, the Vatican's delegation, which does not wish to delay discussions over this point, will withhold its approval of the current form of Paragraph 25 of Chapter 8 until after the discussions of the paragraphs appearing in Chapters 7 and 8. The delegation said it will explain its stance after the document is approved by the ICPD.

Committee Approves Amendment to Abortion Clause

NC0909194994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1812 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—The International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] main committee this evening approved a paragraph prepared by the subcommittee on abortion. This is Paragraph No. 25 of Chapter 8 of the ICPD draft document. MENA reported this amendment last night when it was ratified by the subcommittee. MENA has learned that Malta, Argentina, and Ecuador showed reservations about this paragraph. Jordan did not define its stance, while the Vatican abstained from declaring its stance until the rest of the paragraphs in Chapters 7 and 8 are amended.

The following is the text of the paragraph after its amendment: Abortion can in no way be considered as a means of family planning. All governments and international and nongovernmental organizations concerned must reaffirm their commitment to maintaining women's health and treating the health effects of unsafe abortions as main topics of general health. The need to resort to abortions should be prevented through the expansion and improvement of family planning services. Maximum priority must

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always be given to preventing undesired pregnancies and exerting utmost efforts to preventing abortion. As for women who have unwanted pregnancies, opportunities for easy access to reliable information and sincere consultations must be ensured. Any measures and changes relating to abortion as part of the medical care system can only be decided on the national or local levels and in accordance with national legislations.

In cases where abortion is not illegal, care must be taken that safe abortions are performed. In all cases, women must have easy access to high-quality services to help them cope with the complications resulting from abortion. Women must also have easy access to post-abortion services such as consultations, education, and family planning to help them avoid another abortion.

A paragraph defining unsafe abortion was added to the amendment. It states: "The definition of unsafe abortion is that it is a procedure to end an undesired pregnancy either through individuals lacking the necessary knowledge or under circumstances lacking the minimum limit of medical care or both." This is the definition of the World Health Organization of unsafe abortion.

MENA has learned that approximately all delegations approved of this amendment. The Vatican delegation refrained from opposing it. As MENA reports, the new paragraph includes positive points compared to the previous one. It emphasizes that abortion is not a means to prevent pregnancy and it calls for reducing the need to resort to abortion through family planning services. It also gives priority to unwanted pregnancy prevention efforts to avoid abortion and it gives a woman the right to get medical information and consultations. The new text gives the states the right to deal with this issue according to their national legislations and adherence to divine laws and special cultural traditions. The delegations believe that most states agree with this text because it is flexible and gives them the right to chart their owns policies on the issue.

'Improvement' Noted in Document's Abortion Text

NC0909200494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Ambassador Ra'uf Sa'd, a member of the Egyptian delegation to the main committee at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has announced that Egypt will treat the paragraph concerning abortion, which the committee approved today, in a manner that respects heavenly canons, cultural values, and national legislations.

He said that the paragraph submitted to the committee represents a significant improvement over the other texts under discussion.

Delivering the Egyptian statement and explaining the Egyptian stance on the amendment to the committee this evening, he said: The text that was submitted to us undoubtedly represents a significant improvement over the other texts submitted for negotiation.

In his statement, Ambassador Ra'uf Sa'd said that in its present form the text has brought conflicting and divergent views much closer. Of course, if we had more time we could have improved the text even more, he remarked.

He added: The major difficulty was that we were trying to arrive at a wording that would respond to the various stances and, in the meantime, respects the differences between national cultures, values, and legislations.

Ambassador Sa'd added that the text in question is much closer to that goal. This leads me to explain to the committee that Egypt will treat this text in a manner that fully respects our heavenly canons, our cultural values, and our national legislations, he said. Our understanding of the text will depend on this principle. All Egypt's international commitments stem from this framework, he added. [passage omitted]

10 September

Amendments Approved on 'Reproductive Health'

NC1009124694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The main committee of the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] today accepted Egyptian proposals to amend some clauses of the Chapter 7 of the conference document, which deals with reproductive health.

Mirvat al-Tillawi, Egyptian ambassador to Japan and head of the Egyptian delegation to the ICPD's main committee, said that the Egyptian amendments include alternatives to early marriage, such as new educational and job opportunities for young women who might otherwise marry before they reach the legal age for marriage. The amendments stress the need to abide by the legal minimum age of marriage for women.

Al-Tillawi added that the Egyptian amendments include the elimination of all phrases referring to illegitimate relationships.

Noting that a special drafting team is now rephrasing some of the Chapter 7 clauses, she said that the main committee will resume its meetings this evening to complete the rephrased and amended Chapter 7.

Chapter 7 is the only one not yet formally drafted and approved. It deals with reproductive rights, sexual health, and family planning. Agreement has been reached to change its heading from "Sexual or Procreative Rights" to "Reproductive Health."

The whole ICPD document has 16 chapters.

Musa Says Conference Document Near Completion

NC1009143294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1334 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is head of the Egyptian delegation to the

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International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has stated that the ICPD's final draft document will be completed tonight by the main committee. The draft document will be issued at the final session on Tuesday, he added.

Musa told reporters today that views on the subjects under dispute have been brought closer together, adding that Egypt has introduced some amendments to rephrase the wording of the clauses under dispute in a way that will accommodate all views. He pointed out that Egypt will spell out its position in a statement that will be released at the conference's closing session. He added that the statement will stress the need for the proposed draft to be in line with the principles of religion, customs, and national laws. He noted that an agreement has been reached on most of the recommendations and the rest will be agreed upon tonight. He added: If some points of disagreement remain, reservations could be made on them.

Musa emphasized that the ICPD has made considerable progress. He noted that the views of the Islamic and Nonaligned states were close.

On the financing of development projects in the developing nations, Musa noted that there is an agreement in principle to finance such projects, adding that the final formula must be agreed on. A fund to finance these projects will be established and a mechanism for following up on the implementation of the ICPD's resolutions will be worked out during the conference, he added.

In a related issue, Musa stated that the Vatican has informed Egypt that it has no objection to the conference and that it supports its orientation goals and the family's right to birth control, provided pregnancies are spaced out through acceptable and ethical methods. He pointed out that the Vatican only disagrees with some methods of family planning and is awaiting the final draft of the document to define its position.

Comments on Detained U.S. Journalists

NC1009135794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the detention of three U.S. journalists is a matter that concerns UN security personnel, who are in charge of security inside the ICPD halls.

Musa, who was commenting on the incident [not further specified] today, said: As we understand it, there was an error of some sort with their accreditation cards. This is an issue that concerns the United Nations and UN security.

He added that it is up to UN security personnel whether they want to return those journalists' accreditation cards and allow them to resume covering the conference.

Journalists Readmitted to Conference

NC1009141694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that the three U.S. journalists who were detained last night have had their press cards returned to them.

Sources from the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] told MENA that the three journalists are now on their way to the conference halls after UN security personnel waived the former objection to their presence.

UN security personnel had originally detained the three journalists and asked the Egyptian authorities to deport them.

Conference Head Says Implementation Voluntary

NC1009152194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Dr. Nafis Sadik, secretary general of the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has affirmed that the United Nations will not compel any sovereign country to implement any recommendations or resolutions issued by the conference. She pointed out that these resolutions and recommendations might be implemented by one country but not by another and that it is up to the various governments to apply the ICPD plans.

During a news conference held today, Sadik added that the ICPD will issue numerous recommendations providing greater security and rights for women.

She declared that foreign aid to developing countries will not be linked to human rights policies, noting that such issues are the province of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Sadik explained that the population and development plan in any particular country will be implemented in line with the wishes of that country.

She remarked that nongovernmental organizations have played an important role in the ICPD meetings and that they have influenced the formulation of the recommendations set forth in some chapters of the final document. She noted that these organizations will continue to play important roles alongside their governments and will have a hand in implementing plans pertaining to education, health, and services.

Sadik said the ICPD has had an important role in discussing women's and men's rights.

Iranian Delegation Head Views Participation

LD1009192294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri, head of Iranian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development, by unidentified correspindent in Cairo; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Taskhiri how do you view the achievements of the past few days?

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[Taskhiri] We were concerned that the present document was prepared to look at development without due consideration for moral and ethical issues. We really tried to check the situation. We also tried to put this idea into the document that religious beliefs and values as well as spiritual needs of each world region should be taken into consideration. We said that the various meanings given to the notion of family must be taken out of the document. From the point of view of all religions and all natural societies family has one meaning and that meaning must come in the document. Of course it could take different forms in terms of the size of the family.

Furthermore, we emphasized there should be new interpretations for the terms that were used because some of them could be interpreted as support for abortion. Of course the document itself does not approve abortion. We stated this precisely. We said abortion must not be encouraged and must not take place. Altogether we were successful to a great deal here.

[Correspondent] What is the significance of the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran—a country which has principled views over the issues of discussion?

[Taskhiri] As the result of the climate created by the mass media and the doubts which were naturally raised, some Islamic countries refused to participate. The view of the Islamic Republic of Iran was to have an active and positive presence to prevent a possible deficient approval of this important historic document that is to have extensive influence over the next twenty years. Thank God this aim has been realized extensively and we have been a source of influence. We really wished that all Islamic countries had participated and had acted in union in the conference so there would have been stronger and clearer views. Thank God, we can say that a minimum desired result, and further, has been reached.

Vatican, Others Object to New Wording on Abortion

NC1009180794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The main committee of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has resumed its discussion of the proposed amendments to the conference's final document in a closed session chaired by Farid Sai [name as transliterated].

MENA has learned that the head of the Vatican delegation once again objected during the session to legalizing abortion. Several countries expressed reservations on the new wording of Paragraph 25 of Chapter 8 of the document dealing with abortion.

The head of the Jordanian delegation pointed out that his country will deal with this paragraph in light of what is permitted under the Islamic shari'ah, a position that was also shared by the head of the Libyan delegation, who noted that abortion is not legal in his country.

The head of the Costa Rican delegation declared that his country prohibits abortion and, accordingly, the situation in his country will not change for years to come. The head of the Ecuadoran delegation stated that the Central American group of countries has reservations on the paragraph dealing with abortion.

Session Postponed; Differences Continue

NC1009192494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The main committee of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has decided to postpone its work until Monday, the day after tomorrow. The committee will discuss Chapters 7 and 10 of the conference's document because differences continue to exist about some paragraphs in these chapters.

It has also been decided to cancel the news conference that was scheduled to be held by the committee's chairman tonight because the committee has not yet concluded its discussions of the two chapters. This was stated by the committee's spokesman, who added that the conference's sessions will be in recess tomorrow, Sunday. The conference will resume its work on Monday, 12 September, he added.

Iraq, Sudan Criticized for Failing To Attend

NC1109075494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2046 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM today criticizes Iraq and Sudan for their position on the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] and their failure to attend it. In a long commentary on this topic, Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah, relates a quip by a Cairo-based Arab diplomat about Iraq's and Sudan's absence from the ICPD. The diplomat says: Baghdad and Khartoum do not have to take part in a conference still contemplating ways of coping with the population explosion and dodging its ominous consequences. The Baghdad and Khartoum regimes have invented their own ingenious ways of resolving this problem: Exterminating the population, rather than merely controlling it, is their speciality. The two regimes are known for waging wars against their own people as well as others, with considerable loss of lives.

Sa'dah writes that this quip is not far from the mark. Both Saddam Husayn and His Eminence Shaykh 'Umar al-Bashir have committed serious crimes against their peoples.

Saddam Husayn rules his country with steel and fire, killing hundreds of thousands whose only crime is opposing his corrupt and dictatorial regime and yearning for a republic that is better than the deposed monarchy.

Likewise, His Eminence Shaykh 'Umar al-Bashir is waging an ugly war against the Sudanese people in the south, a war in which tens of thousands of northerners as well as

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southerners have perished. Human rights organizations have been unanimous in predicting famine comparable to that of Somalia and Rwanda for the Sudanese, who are already suffering under the rule of al-Bashir and al-Turabi.

The AKHBAR AL-YAWM chief editor says that a mere glance at the history of Iraq's bloody ruler brings the realization that no people in history have suffered as much deprivation, suffering, persecution, indignity, and terror as the Iraqis under Saddam.

Sa'dah writes that the Arabs should have long ago shunned a man of such ignorance and dangerous temperament, but Saddam unfortunately succeeded in deceiving all the Arabs—governments if not peoples—with his insincere pledges and unkept promises.

Iraq has the natural wealth that could have made its people happy and prosperous, but fate had it that Saddam, an ignorant man and a killer, turned Iraqi wealth and potential into chips with which he hoped to win his own bid to become the supreme Arab hero, the uncontested leader of all Arab nations.

Saddam Husayn even took money from Arab Gulf countries with the promise that he would build and develop Iraq's military arsenal and then destroy the State of Israel and erase it from the Middle East map. Instead, he attacked Iran, starting a war that lasted for years and in which hundreds of thousands of Iraqis perished. Having finally accepted a cease-fire with Iran, Saddam once again began preparing for war with Israel. Once again, Sa'dah writes, Saddam abandoned his declared aim, invading and annexing Kuwait instead. Only then did the mask fall away and Saddam emerge as one of the Arabs' most hated enemies.

The shooting may have died down in the Gulf, but Saddam's war of words against Egypt is still blazing, Sa'dah remarks. Saddam has an abiding rancor against Egypt because it is seeking to end the conflict in the Middle East, a conflict that Saddam has turned into a career and a reason for existing.

India 'Taking Leadership' of G-77

BK1209143994 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Usha Rai: "India Takes Leadership for G-77 Nations"]

[Text] Cairo—There was euphoria in the Indian camp, particularly among NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], because India made several significant interventions for the Third World's right to development at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] here on Thursday.

It ensured the successful passage of the chapter on "Interrelationships Between Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development", which was seen as crucial for the Third World. India had kept a low profile so far because it wanted to keep away from the polemics of the conference.

Taking the leadership for the G-77 countries, India opposed the clause on redirecting of domestic budget priorities to the social sectors and human resource development. The original proposal was for greater transparency for curtailing corruption.

But as India's secretary for family welfare, Mr V.K. Shunglu, pointed out to mediapersons, this did not suit India as a sizable part of the budget, even for the social sector, is spent on salaries.

So when the United States proposed an amendment, removing the clause on curtailing corruption and redirecting national budgets and just focussing on greater investments in human resource development and the social sector, India supported it.

The first three days of discussions centred around abortion reproductive right and sexuality and India had decided to steer clear from these controversies since there was clarity on these issues back home. Soft-spoken K.S. Sugathan, joint secretary, family welfare, also steered the southern countries' demand that the international community should support eradication of poverty. The entire paragraph on this crucial issue for developing countries was in brackets.

As a leader for human rights, India pushed for "guarantee of human rights, including the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental rights. Particular attention is to be given to the socio-economic improvement of poor women in developing countries."

The large delegation of Indian NGOs, particularly women, were thrilled that their lobbying had been successful and that Mr. Sugathan spoke of women's empowerment being at the heart of all development.

The POA [expansion unknown] had very clearly spelt out cost of funding for family planning and reproductive health at $17 billion in 2000, $18.5 billion in 2005, $20.5 billion in 2010 and $21.7 billion in 2015—65 per cent of this for the delivery system.

The Third World would not accept these costs because "costs keeping changing". With successful interventions it was ensured that these costs would be updated. The G-77 plea against giving the same status to economies in transition and developing countries was also accepted.

Almost the entire G-77 block of countries opposed the linking of debt forgiveness with government investment in population and development programmes. The entire paragraph on innovative financing was in brackets. Not only were the developing countries able to get the brackets removed but ensured that debt relief would not be in exchange for investments in population programmes.

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Guatemala Rejects Proposed Project

PA1309233494 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 11 Sep 94 p 43

[Text] At the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, Guatemala claimed the right as a sovereign nation to decide policy on population issues.

The government's position—read by Ambassador Julio Martin—was expressed in a message sent to the full Conference by President Ramiro De Leon Carpio.

The Guatemalan Government thus officially rejected the population and development project proposed by the United Nations because the government believes population policies should be decided according to our principles and realities.

In his message, the president presented a report on Guatemala in an effort to promote greater comprehension and tolerance toward the fundamentals of our government's strategies and policies on development matters.

He said the government has adopted the principle of the state as defender of the individual, who is the subject and goal of social order, and acknowledges the family as the nucleus of society.

From this, he said, we derive the doctrine that it is not the state's role to make private decisions for individuals, including decisions in which family issues play a fundamental and inviolable role.

He also said that the Constitution establishes that the state is organized to protect the person and the family and to guarantee and protect human life from conception.

Therefore, he emphasized, our policy cannot be coercive or inductive. Public powers have the right to establish policy, but the state cannot assume the responsibility of parents, nor can it go into homes to make parents obey the state's position on family planning matters.

The president told the Conference that the policy to focus international cooperation on issues of family planning by birth control, to the detriment of education and health, is contrary to our priorities.

To conclude, he noted that human experience indicates that development is reached through economic productivity which, in turn, is based on the capacity of human resources and equality among social groups. In no case has development been reached through family planning by birth control.

12 September

Cypriot Minister Condemns Turkish 'Colonization'

NC1209205894 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1900 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Addressing the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Cyprus Justice Minister Alekos Evangelou said the implementation of a reasonable population policy within the framework of an international development strategy is being obstructed by the continuous occupation of Cypriot territory and the mass Turkish colonization of the occupied areas.

He stressed: The repercussion of the invasion that is causing the most concern is the systematic change of Cyprus' historical demographic character through the illegal import of settlers from Turkey, and as a result the mass exodus of the native Turkish Cypriot population. He added: The number of Turkish settlers and troops in the occupied areas is estimated to equal the number of Turkish Cypriots.

According to data presented by the justice minister, today the Turkish Cypriots make up 13 percent of the Cypriot population compared to 18 percent before the invasion.

Salvadoran First Lady Addresses Conference

PA1309170994 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Report by Andy Montoya; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] During the speech Salvadoran First Lady Elizabeth de Calderon Sol delivered at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] held in Cairo, she said El Salvador will implement development policies in agreement with our laws, customs, principles, values, and traditions, as long as they do not harm people or threaten the right to life.

From the beginning of her speech, the first lady let the other countries know El Salvador is a sovereign nation that will defend its legal and moral principles.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] We will not share or support proposals threatening or harming in any way, or implying the loss or irreparable sacrifice of such human rights as the right to life from conception, the right to physical and moral integrity, freedom, security, and the right to employment. [end recording]

Mrs. Calderon Sol maintained the family is the foundation of society, which is based upon the respect for life, social mobility, and equal rights for men and women. As for this latter issue, the first lady recalled that our country is promoting responsible fatherhood and motherhood. She also talked about abortion and explained our position on the subject:

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] All couples, man and woman, have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number of children they want and how far apart they want to have them and to have access to information, education, and the necessary means to make these decisions. [end recording]

The first lady believes people are the nations' main resource and the engine for development. As for the latter issue, she pointed out that should our country implement

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new population policies, it would be done with some limitations and in agreement with the laws, principles, values, and traditions of our people. During her speech delivered at the ICPD, Mrs. Calderon Sol also pointed out that the current government is intensifying efforts to enhance human resources and make them a decisive ingredient for national development.

Egyptian Officials Note Success, 'Compromises'

NC1209173694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi will attend the final session of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which will be held at 1600 tomorrow. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will address the session on Egypt's position on all the issues contained in the final document issued by the conference. [passage omitted]

In press statements today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed that the ICPD has achieved major success. This is the first time a population conference has worked out a program of action for the following 20 years, he said. He stressed that Egypt preserved particular frameworks and amended formulations so that they conform with divine laws, cultural beliefs, and sovereignty laws and rights. He said that Egypt, as the host and a participant in the conference, worked with other countries to advance the work of the conference. He said Egypt, Pakistan, and several Islamic countries held extensive negotiations on the seventh chapter to bring it into line with the Egyptian and Islamic position. He said the conference will issue the final statement tomorrow, by consensus, and the countries will have the right to express reservations.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1515 GMT on 12 September adds the following: "Ambassador Mirvat al-Talawi, the head of Egypt's delegation to the ICPD's main committee, has stated that the Islamic groups and the Catholic groups in the conference have contained problems and differences over the conference's final document and reached compromises on them.

["Ambassador al-Talawi told reporters today that most of the issues have been agreed upon, with only the subject of international immigration and a single term or phrase in Chapter Seven remaining.

["She said the final document will emphasize that sex education is linked with the family and that the term does not mean encouraging adolescent promiscuity, but observing youth's right to know the diseases that may occur as a result of a lack of education.

["She said the guidelines in the document's first chapter will be applied at the local level in a way that respects society's principles and prevailing laws. We will take from the general principles that which agrees with our divine laws, she said."]

Chapter 7 of Draft Final Document Endorsed

NC1209174794 Cairo MENA in English 1633 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 12 (MENA)—The ICPD [International Conference on Population and Development] main committee tonight endorsed Chapter Seven of the draft final document to be issued by the Cairo conference final session tomorrow.

Ambassador 'Adil al-Safti, assistant foreign minister and Egypt's chief delegate to the committee, said participants approved the Egyptian amendments to the Chapter foremost among which was changing the title of the Chapter to reproductive health instead of sexual health.

Agreement was also reached on rendering the application of population policies a sovereign right of every country in line with its religion, ethics and national laws, he added.

Vatican Statement Explains Position on Chapter 7

NC1209174394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—In a statement today the Vatican delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] said that Chapter Seven is a central part of the conference document in which important and improvised concepts, such as reproductive health, reproductive rights, and sexual health and rights were introduced in major detail.

The statement said the Vatican already explained its appreciation and approval of the reproductive health concept but within certain limits.

The statement said the concepts are being discussed and a more detailed study of Chapter Seven needs more time. It said the Vatican will make an official statement when the Chapter is referred to the general committee.

The statement said anything the Vatican does to achieve unanimity on this Chapter during the sessions should not be used to suggest that the Vatican approves of abortion or that it has changed its position on abortion.

Iran Accepts Revised Declaration on Abortion

LD1209222594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] A spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry has announced that, in order resolve the differences of opinion between various countries on the final declaration of the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], a small working group consisting of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Germany, America, Norway, El Salvador, Honduras, Columbia, Pakistan, Indonesia, and the Soviet Union [as heard] has been set up to try to reach agreement and consensus on the wording of the final conference declaration.

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On the basis of a decision made by the group following Iran's proposal, despite the opposition of Western countries, an article has been placed in the final declaration that states that the implementation of the declaration must be based on the rule of governments and national laws, as well as their religious, cultural, and moral values.

Meanwhile, the deputy health and treatment minister of our country, who is currently in Cairo, has said that the revised text of the ICPD declaration, which says abortion can in no way be regarded as a method of family planning, is acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to IRNA, Dr. Malekzadeh, deputy health and treatment minister and a member of the Iranian delegation to the ICPD, added: The changes made to the proposed draft ICPD resolution up to the morning of 12 September have fulfilled the Islamic Republic of Iran's wishes.

Official Views Debate, Reservations

NC1209194594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, Iranian foreign affairs official and head of the Iranian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has stated that his country's delegation will submit proposals to the conference tomorrow calling on the United Nations to refer in all its resolutions to the teachings of the heavenly religions and spiritual and cultural values and to remove any phrases against them.

In a news conference today on the conference sidelines Taskhiri stated that the Iranian delegation's positive participation in the conference, in conjunction with Egypt and the Islamic states, has led to ridding the document of many phrases and paragraphs that were in conflict with Islamic and Christian teachings, such as the term sexual and reproductive health. He added that emphasis was placed on the need to discuss families and couples, not individuals or extramarital relations. He said he was satisfied with the Iranian delegation's participation in the conference, which he said contributed much toward cleansing the document. He noted that active and positive participation is the best way to highlight the values to which we adhere.

At the beginning of his news conference Shaykh Taskhiri expressed his belief that the ICPD is of historic importance, first, as an extension of earlier international conferences and, second, for tackling the problem of the world population explosion. He described the document prepared for the conference as important, because it contains points of strength and weakness. Although some Islamic states have boycotted the conference because of these points of weakness, he added, Iran decided to actively and positively participate to strengthen the points of strength and remove the points of weakness.

Taskhiri pointed out that among the points of strength is the emphasis on women's role in political and social decisionmaking, the need to protect internal and external immigrants, and the importance of technology and education in development. He added: These are issues with which we do not disagree. But there are points that we believe are weak, including the document's being drafted with a mentality that veered away from religion and religious beliefs, which are ignored in the draft. Another point of weakness, he added, is that the document contains terms that are sometimes ambiguous and could be misapplied.

Shaykh Taskhiri noted that there is cooperation with the various humanity-loving nations, Islamic states, including Egypt, and the Vatican to bridge the points of weakness in the document. He added: We are almost in agreement with them on the various points and seek to fully reform the draft document. He noted that the Iranian delegation will submit proposals at the conference session tomorrow including a call on the United Nations to consider studying moral and religious beliefs in the field of development at its next conference. We will also call on the Islamic Conference Organization to hold a meeting to adopt a permanent development plan for the Islamic world in light of the document to be endorsed by the ICPD. Taskhiri expressed full satisfaction with the Iranian delegation's positive participation.

Asked about the points on which Iran expressed reservations, Taskhiri said that these included "sexual health, fertility regulation, reproductive health, and individuals' behavior." He added that the Iranian delegation stressed the need to define these expressions accurately so that they will not be misinterpreted and to define the texts that could be understood to mean that they allow sexual liaisons outside marriage, something that is rejected by religions and normal societies.

The head of the Iranian delegation noted that his country has the most refugees and that there are around 4 million refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, Kurdistan, and Azerbaijan, which represents a major problem for Iran. He added that this is in addition to the internal migration that took place during the Iraqi-Iranian war when around 2 million people left their areas for other areas.

Asked about reuniting families, Taskhiri expressed support for returning the refugees to their countries. He said that Iran is willing to shoulder its share because this is a humanitarian cause.

Asked whether the Iranian delegation's cooperation with the Vatican was directed against the United States, Taskhiri said: This cooperation stems from the single root of religions. We all agree on the moral values of religions, protecting the right to live, and on making the family the basis for social structure.

On whether Iran will accept U.S. funding for family planning programs, Taskhiri said: We do not need U.S. funds. In 1987 the Iranian Government began a family planning program that included cities and the countryside. It reduced the birthrate from 4 to 1.8 percent, a result that is acceptable worldwide.

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Regarding accusations that charge Iran with terrorism, Taskhiri stressed that his country condemns terrorism in all its forms. He said: Based on this premise we are one of the victims of terrorism, because prominent Iranian figures became its victims. He added that Iran was not behind the terrorist operation in Argentina.

He expressed his belief that the so-called new world order is no more than another expression of unipolar authority and hegemony over the world. He stressed that his country categorically opposes the use of the human rights concept as an excuse for interfering in others' affairs.

Committee Approves 'All Articles' of Document

NC1209201694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—The main committee of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has approved all the articles of the ICPD draft document, 'Adil al-Safti, assistant foreign minister and head of Egypt's delegation at the committee, said at the end of the committee meeting this evening.

Al-Safti added that the document's 16 chapters, which include 1,242 paragraphs, have been approved without clauses or reservations. He noted that reservations stated by some countries will be announced tomorrow in the form of a declaration defining these countries' understanding of the document.

Al-Safti added that Chapter Two, which concerns principles, includes a main paragraph that acts as a caveat for this chapter. It is referred to repeatedly in the document, particularly in Chapter Seven, he added, noting that this paragraph states that adopting and implementing population policies is a sovereign right practiced by states in accordance with their internal laws and without prejudice to religious teachings, customs, principles, and moral rules.

He pointed out that this general paragraph covers all the articles of the document and is repeatedly referred to in several chapters, particularly at the start of Chapter Seven. Al-Safti added that Chapter Seven was the subject of a very long debate during which all the outstanding differences were ironed out. All the delegations announced that they will accept the document and some delegations will announce their own interpretation of the document, he added.

He added that the Egyptian efforts focused on two major avenues. The first concerns issues of interest to Egypt and in this regard Egypt advanced many amendments that were adopted by the conference, he added. The second involved an attempt by Egypt to reconcile conflicting views over some issues and in this regard Egypt made reconciliation attempts and submitted alternative drafts that were accepted.

Al-Safti pointed out that two sessions will be held tomorrow. The first and morning session will be procedural, during which the remarks and interpretations of some countries will be heard. The second session will be held at 1600 and will be a ceremonial session following which the conference will end. He noted that one session was originally scheduled for tomorrow morning but a slight delay has resulted because of a hold-up and the need to translate and print the document in five languages and submit it to the delegations for their final approval.

Mexico on Protecting Rights of Illegal Immigrants

PA1309045194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1704 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By Ricardo Alday]

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Mexico is fighting and will continue to fight the migration of undocumented Central Americans "with full respect for human rights and the sovereignty of citizens and countries," Deputy Government Secretary Alfonso Navarrete stated here.

"Mexico does not build metal fences to stop our Central American brothers who are trying to cross the border seeking opportunities," the head of the Mexican delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), stated.

Mexico's actions, Navarrete explained, "are designed to regulate the major problems caused by undocumented migrants and the people called coyotes."

The topic of international migration and its impact on demographics and development constitute one of the chief points of the Plan of Action that the ICPD proposes to adopt on Tuesday [13 September] to lower the growth rate of the world's population.

Navarrete drew an analogy with the "metal fences" that the United States planned to build on part of its long border with Mexico, a border that sees the highest number of crossings in the world each year.

Some Central American countries have stated that on occasion Mexican authorities have treated their citizens, who are emigrating illegally to the United States via Mexico, as harshly as Mexico claims the United States treats Mexican immigrants.

"We tell them, the Central Americans, that Mexico will take action against those fences and that although undocumented aliens are not accepted anywhere in the world, we do not resist them with xenophobic positions, but with full respect for those countries and citizens," Navarrete explained.

He condemned the actions by "coyotes" who profit from those who believe that by emigrating they will improve their situation or find an option for development.

"It is important to keep in mind the need to strike a balance between the commitment of maintaining fraternal

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relations with our brother countries and the unyielding defense in the interests of the Mexican people," the deputy secretary stated.

Official and private estimates foresee that the number of illegal Central American immigrants that increased in the past decade will begin to drop gradually in the coming years in line with the gradual process of pacification in the region.

Regional Plan Presented

PA1309043694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2100 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By Rocio Santana]

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (NOTIMEX)—On behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico has presented an action plan for the region at the International Conference on Population and Development, organized by the United Nations in Cairo.

At the conference's 11th plenary session, the Mexican delegation, led by Deputy Government Secretary Alfonso Navarrete, presented a seven-page document detailing the plan's principles and goals.

The document, which is divided into four chapters, assesses the region's common problems, including the high population density in urban areas.

It also refers to specific regional characteristics, the demographic transition phase, and goals and recommendations for resolving specific problems.

At a news conference, the head of the Mexican delegation emphasized that the basic principle of this action plan is respect for the sovereignty of each nation.

This principle will allow any country in the region to share, on an international level, its experiences on common issues and to take corrective measures in its legislature.

Under this plan, problems such as migration, respect for human rights, the environment, and the restructuring of social services will be discussed and analyzed. In this way, the countries will be draw from each other's experiences. He cited Mexico's record in family planning programs that received international recognition.

13 September

General Committee Resumes Work on Final Document

NC1309112094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0947 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—The General Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] resumed its work this morning to discuss the conference's final document.

At the beginning of the meeting, ICPD Vice Chairman Dr. Mahir Mahran announced that governmental and nongovernmental organizations participating in the conference have been accredited according to a report by the credentials committee comprising the Bahamas, China, Ecuador, Mauritius, Thailand, and the United States.

The committee approved the ICPD report submitted by the conference moderator and the working program forwarded by the Main Committee Chairman Farid Sai. [passage omitted]

The conferees then began to review the final document's 16 articles. They endorsed the first article on the text according to the Main Committee's recommendation without any remarks or reservations from the members.

The conferees also endorsed the second article concerning principles after the Iranian delegation presented two remarks. The first remark is that the document did not take into consideration the role of religious beliefs and regulations in mobilizing energies in favor of development. The second concerns sexual relations out of wedlock. The Iranian delegation stressed its reservation over every phrase authorizing such behavior that contravenes all laws.

Final Document Endorsed

NC1309112494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—The International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] this afternoon endorsed the conference's document, a world program to address issues of population and development for the next 20 years.

The conferees approved the document after a three-hour session during which they listened to delegates' remarks on some of the document's articles. Some countries expressed reservations at a number of clauses.

Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of population and family affairs and vice chairman of the conference, announced that the document was endorsed by general consensus.

The conference will hold its final session at 1500 today.

Colombian Delegation Head Satisfied With Results

PA1409004394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Report by Vicky Santa Maria from Cairo; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] Colombian Vice President Humberto de la Calle Lombana said he is satisfied with the results of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]. At the conclusion of the full session, the nations almost unanimously approved the final document in its entirety. Here is what Vice President de la Calle Lombana said:

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[Begin De la Calle recording] Demographic policy cannot be limited to birth control alone. We have found—and this has been universally recognized—that the process of restoring the rights of women, who are the main protagonists in this process as well as in this conference, is necessary, as well as the fight against poverty and the improvement of social policy. Difficulties in birth control are encountered mostly in the lower and poorer classes. The recovery of women's rights and the improvement of people's standards of living are determining factors in an effective population stabilization policy.

We in Colombia are very proud of the fact that Chapter 7, one of the most difficult chapters because it deals with sexual and reproductive health and with the new concept of reproductive rights, was coordinated by members of the Colombian delegation. This is especially satisfying for me as president of this delegation. [end recording]

Document Adopted With Amendments, Reservations

NC1309134494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the final document of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] was adopted today with some amendments and reservations. He added that the conference achieved a formula regulating the relationship between population and economic development.

Musa said that the document expresses the views of the countries attending the conference and is in line with the Egyptian view on the relationship between population and development.

He explained that the document's basic principle is that it must be implemented in the context of each concerned country's sovereignty and laws and be in harmony with religious and ethical tenets. He said Egypt successfully introduced this amendment, which will determine how all the document's clauses will be implemented.

Conference Adopts Working Program

NC1309145894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Concluding its meetings today, the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] adopted the conference's working program. It recommended that the UN General Assembly [UNGA] express support for this program during its 49th session.

In its resolution, which will be announced during the final session now being held, the ICPD also recommended that the UNGA establish the necessary agencies to implement the program.

The following is the text of the resolution proposed by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China:

The ICPD met in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994.

1. The ICPD adopts the working program of the conference, which accompanies this resolution.

2. The ICPD recommends that the UNGA during its 49th session support the working program with the formulation adopted by the conference.

3. The ICPD also recommends that the UNGA during its 49th session revise the summarized versions of the national reports on population and development prepared by the ICPD secretariat.

Deputy Chairman Comments on 'Cairo Document'

NC1309172294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Population and Family Affairs Minister Dr. Mahir Mahran, deputy chairman of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has announced that the conference's document will be called "The Cairo Document for the International Conference on Population and Development of 1994."

In remarks made to reporters today, Mahran described the ICPD's success as beyond all expectations and said that it was a total success for Egypt, on whose territory it was held.

Mahran said numerous, lengthy, and fruitful debates were conducted during the conference in which people of all nationalities, religions, and cultures participated in a spirit of amity and understanding.

Dr. Mahran said that Egypt participated in the conference as a UN member and a host country. He noted the consensus among all attendees thanking Egypt and expressing their appreciation to President Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian Government, and the Egyptian public for their preparation for the conference, hospitality, and their efforts to ensure its success.

Dr. Mahran added that everyone agrees that the conference was successfully organized and its procedures and substance properly set forth. He pointed out that the reservations expressed during the debates were very few when contrasted with the tremendous amount of recommendations and issues that had been submitted to the conference.

Dr. Mahran praised the cooperative spirit shown by the Islamic countries' delegations. Referring to the Iranian delegation's positive role, he said that its members made excellent contributions to the amendment of the conference's document.

He added that the Cairo Document is the product of a fruitful and creative effort carried out by all countries over a number of years.

He explained that the document stresses that every country can choose the resolutions that agree with its circumstances and culture.

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Dr. Mahran thanked media personnel and the employees of Egyptian and other Arab radio and television services for their coverage of the conference in an appropriate way.

He thanked UN agencies, the Egyptian Information Ministry, Cairo's International Conference Center, and the security forces for all their efforts.

Mahran concluded: This conference is one the most successful international conferences ever held.

Nicaraguan Delegates Resign Over Differences

PA1309185194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1335 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (EFE)—Two members of the official Nicaraguan delegation to the Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) resigned today in disagreement with the official posture of their delegation, which they believe may endanger international assistance to Managua.

In a letter distributed today at the conference addressed to Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Luisa del Carmen Larios, president of the National Assembly's Population and Development Commission, and Omar Cabezas Lacayo, vice president of the Education, Culture, and Sports commission, give their reasons for resigning.

"The unannounced departure of delegation head William Baez, who did not formally appoint a substitute, and the confusing appointment of Elida de Solorzano, leader of a nongovernmental organization recognized by its extreme position regarding population and development, forces us to resign from the representation you appointed us to," they said in the note.

"Mrs. Solorzano's position has placed Nicaragua among a group of only seven countries of the 180 represented here, thus isolating it internationally," the note added.

They further stated that "our position as parliamentarians and recognized leaders of our respective political parties prevent us from supporting a position that we are sure does not reflect the consensus of a civilian society or the hopes of our government."

Additionally, the Nicaraguan position "endangers international assistance from donor countries, which our people need so much and which you have worked for with so much effort," the note to President Chamorro says.

The two Nicaraguan parliamentarians have sent a copy of the letter to National Assembly President Luis Humberto Guzman, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal, Social Action Minister William Baez, as well as to the ICPD president, heads of participating delegations, and to the UN's Population Fund.

Egypt's Musa Addresses Closing Session

NC1309162394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1439 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Speech by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the closing session of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo on 13 September—live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, allow me to convey to you and to the representatives of the states, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations and institutions the greetings of President Husni Mubarak and of the Egyptian people and Government. We thank the delegates for the regard and appreciation they have shown us. We would like to express our joy at your presence among us in Cairo. We have all been very honored to host this important conference in this esteemed international presence. I express my full appreciation of the huge effort that has been made and the deep discussions that have taken place on a subject of great importance to the march of mankind, which is approaching the end of one century and the beginning of another. It is approaching the third millennium A.D.

Mr. Chairman, this conference was convened amid an atmosphere characterized by tension and distinguished by heated debate. Opinions on the proposed document differed so radically that they often reflected diametrically opposed ways of thinking and views on the problems facing the conference and its handling of these problems concerning their proposition, formulation, and treatment. We are confident that the complete discussions that have taken place on population and development during this conference, while heated and varied, proceeded from a more important and profound basis relating to contradicting intellectual issues and cultures with different backgrounds and diverse courses.

Since the end of the Cold War the international community has discussed in great depth issues linked with man's life. The objective was to draw up the guidelines for organizing these affairs in future. The nineties have witnessed successive international conferences with strong undertones of this important topic of human progress and economic and social development. This shift started with the Childhood Summit and the Earth Summit and continued with the human rights conference and the International Conference on Population and Development, the social development summit, the international conference for women, and the UN conference on human settlement. These are all steps we are taking toward formulating a comprehensive and new program the objective of which is human development, particularly its social aspect, within a cohesive and interlinked framework of international action in which all people and societies participate to develop their lifestyles and secure their future.

In this conference, the ICPD [International Conference on Population and Development], you can say that the time was right for a dialogue of cultures and a meeting of civilizations. This is what happened. This is the first time since World War II—and, it goes without saying, since the Cold War—that profound issues dealing with the issues of life and its organization have been raised on the basis of a particular lifestyle. These issues included values, the principles of religion and belief, and various practices.

This does not imply that discussions were held between cultures that belong in the past and others that belong to

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the future. The dialogue involved societies that chose their own way of life, in the formation, conduct, and values of which divine laws have played a part. Others chose patterns of life in which they were guided by particular cultures and laws, invoking values that flourished in times of social development with different approaches and concepts that are not necessarily acceptable to the other societies.

The various patterns of universal cultural development reached consensus and success when the universal concept accepted the values of democracy as a better political system and the free economy as a more useful and effective method. But the universal system, with its diversified cultural concepts and values, cannot easily be built on a specific cultural pattern that can guide our views toward a complex issue like that of population, which is linked with man and his values, land and its wealth, resources and their abundance, individuals and groups and their roles, and religion and values and their influence. The population issue is also linked with the past and its impact and reality, the future and its hopes, and with security and stability and relations among societies.

All these aspects dictated those long discussions to reach this document, which, together with all our negotiations, constituted a consensus, despite all the discrepancies—a consensus of views and agreement on a program of action on population that we issued a few moments ago, a program that contains many positive aspects.

Gentlemen, when we discuss the bases of cultures or the values of society, there is no room for imposing the trusteeship of one civilization on another or one culture on another. The only way is to hold an equal dialogue based on acceptance and mutual respect, on coexistence and reconciliation, and on respect for differences. Such a dialogue may take up all of the next century.

It is in light of these facts that we view the results and fruits of this long discussion and rich civilized dialogue in Cairo. The criterion of our success lies in dealing with the population issue from the right perspective, emphasizing the close link between the population policy and development in all its economic and social dimensions, and taking into consideration cultural and human dimensions too.

In its views on and dealings with the conference document, Egypt, Mr. President, was extremely eager to emphasize several bases: First, leaning on the principles of divine laws and full respect for the values and ethics stemming from them and calling for these. Second, fully respecting our social values and our full commitment to our national legislation and laws. Third, emphasizing that the family, with its deep religious and social concept, is the basic nucleus of society. Fourth, clearly ensuring our commitment to the various rights, including equal rights for women, as stated in the national Constitution, and also our commitment to the texts of Islamic shari'ah and the law in dealing with the issue of abortion, which is not recognized by the document as a means of family planning.

Mr. Chairman, since we succeeded in the general agreement on the ICPD work program, it is as important that during the upcoming UN General Assembly session this agreement be consolidated and associated with an agreement on the method of following up on and implementing the recommendations through proper mechanisms. One of the most important challenges confronting us at present is to exploit the unprecedented international interest in the issue of population on all levels to ensure the continuity of its results and credibility of its recommendations. Dealing with the clauses of the document and recommendations outlined in the work program will be contingent on the extent of the commitment to pooling resources to implement the programs and plans adopted by the ICPD.

Perhaps the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new stage of international cooperation will bring hope that the donor nations will honor their pledges to allocate .07 percent of their gross national products in aid to developing countries to help them in their continuing efforts to ensure continued development.

In conclusion, we express thanks and appreciation to every party that contributed to the success of this conference, foremost of whom are the chairman; Secretary General Dr. Nafis Sadiq; those who provided security, organized it, cared for the participants; and all those who worked day and night to end its work in the best possible way. Egypt, which actively participated in the discussions and dialogue to reach a common understanding, will deal with the document within the framework of the principles outlined in the first and second chapters, which emphasize full respect for the rights of national sovereignty, religions, and moral values within the framework of our commitment to the articles of the Constitution, the principles of law, our heritage, our traditions, and divine laws. Our relationship to this document, view about its recommendations, and understanding of its content and clauses will always be governed by our religion, values, Constitution, laws, straightforward innate nature, and the right path. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [applause]

Iranian Delegate Comments on Results

LD1309184594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and other Islamic countries taking part in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo have gained many concessions through the clarification and omission of ambiguous terms from the draft copy of the conference's final document. Announcing the news, Mr. Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, the head of our country's delegation at the ICPD, said: We have achieved many of our wishes.

Please listen to our colleagues conversation with Mr. Taskhiri:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Taskhiri, now that the conference is over, please give us some explanation on the conference's achievements and final declaration.

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[Taskhiri] The final session of the great ICPD is in progress in Cairo at present. The conference has approved its final statement. Of course, many countries put forward their own amendments to some clauses. But, on the whole, the final statement has been approved. It will apparently be published by the end of today's session as the Cairo declarations on population and development for the next 20 years.

[Correspondent] On the whole, what was the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran? And, basically, how successful were we in the conference?

[Taskhiri] Clearly, the Islamic Republic of Iran played a great and successful role in the conference. With the cooperation of various countries, such as the host country, we were able to make fundamental changes to the proposed document. In a few places on the document, it is stated that all countries will regard and implement that undertaking in accordance with their own regulations, beliefs, and cultural and moral values. Many of the euphemisms in the document have been omitted. If there are still other euphemisms and expressions, various countries have officially expressed reservations about them. Many terms have been explained.

Today, the influence of the Islamic Republic and God's religions have naturally prevailed over the trend of the conference's final discussions. In my view, our presence in the conference has been totally positive and effective. We have made as much of an impact as possible. Of course, that does not mean that we accept the document. We still object to some of the contents of the document, and we voiced our reservations today. We stated that we felt that the document had not been prepared realistically. Therefore, we have formally asked the United Nations to hold seminars to review the role of religion and religious education in ongoing development and to attach the results of the seminars to the document. In my view, our performance has been very good and effective.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the impact of the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the conference?

[Taskhiri] In my view, the Islamic Republic of Iran has acted here as the forerunner of Islamic countries and the vanguard of all the Muslim world and has been the star of the conference in some people's view. All the news agencies, reporters, newspapers, and magazines of the world have praised the Iranian delegation for its industry and the Islamic Republic for its positive but strong and fundamental stance. As I see it, even in terms of propaganda, the presence of the Islamic Republic has been fruitful and effective. This step is regarded as a positive step.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Taskhiri] May God keep you. [end recording]

Egyptian Delegation Heads Hold News Conference

NC1309191694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1801 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, head of Egypt's delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], has announced that the document issued by the conference will be implemented by the participating countries while fully respecting the religious principles, values, and traditions that prevail in each country.

'Amr Musa said that no country expressed comprehensive reservations about the document today and that some countries' reservations were restricted to particular paragraphs and chapters.

Foreign Minister Musa was speaking at a news conference held by Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of population and family affairs and deputy chairman of the ICPD, and Dr. Nafis Sadik, secretary general of the ICPD and executive director of the UN Population Fund.

At the news conference, which was held at the end of the ICPD's meetings, 'Amr Musa said Egypt was proud to hold the conference in Cairo and proud of its success.

He said the ICPD's recommendations would be implemented through international and regional cooperation. He pointed out that the document approved by the ICPD would be presented to the UN General Assembly for approval during its new round this month. He said the document affirmed the right of each country to implement what it believes is appropriate for it.

The foreign minister pointed out that the conference was an arena for encounters among the various cultures for the first time in years. During the conference, various issues of interest to many countries were presented, addressing issues of population and development.

Dr. Mahir Mahran told the news conference that the campaigns the conference was subjected to before it convened helped to draw attention to it and affected the discussions at it. He said these campaigns benefited the conference more than billions of dollars spent on advertising it.

Dr. Mahir Mahran discussed population projects in Egypt and said Egypt pays great attention to implementing development projects in Upper Egypt so that the deprived sectors can benefit from them.

Dr. Nafis Sadik said that 173 states took part in the conference along with hundreds of nongovernmental organizations.

She pointed out that the conference prepared a working program for the next 20 years and affirmed that the various countries have the choice of implementing what they feel is appropriate from among the programs.

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She said the conference concentrated on confronting population increase and implementing development projects.

Concluding the news conference a journalist representing European media thanked Egypt for the success of the conference and, on behalf of foreign news agencies, praised the facilities Egypt offered to journalists and the international news agencies during the convention.

Vatican Spokesman Sees 'Encouraging' Results

BR1309150294 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 13 Sep 94 p 19

[Interview with Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls by Umberto De Giovannangeli in Cairo; date not given: "The Vatican is Proud, Now There Is Clarity"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] Cairo. "This conference is not a football match where there must be a loser and a winner. What I can say with pride is that the Holy See helped to clear up the various dark points of the preparatory document and above all, succeeded in highlighting that sustainable growth should be based on other much more binding topics and not on population control." The statement was made by one of the key people at the conference in Cairo: Joaquin Navarro Valls, the untiring Vatican spokesman. In this interview with L'UNITA, Navarro Valls assesses the progress made at the assembly a few hours after the closure of the conference.

[De Giovannangeli] Together with the topics of abortion and sexual reproduction, which were at the center of the discussions and clashes at the conference, was the issue of the right to family reunification of immigrants. What struck you most about the debate that took place on this point?

[Navarro Valls] I would say the silence of Europe. That silence was "felt" and very much so in the hall where discussions centered on a right of vital importance, sanctioned moreover by the very same UN charter on children's rights. The 60 delegations from all the continents felt a moral obligation to take the floor to sustain the right of single family members to reunify. Instead, the European Union preferred to remain silent and this had a negative effect not only on the Holy See.

[De Giovannangeli] One of the most frequent accusations directed toward the Vatican delegation is that of having upset the conference agenda by blocking the debate on the issue of abortion. How do you counter this accusation?

[Navarro Valls] By going back to the preparatory document. Out of 130 pages, only seven were dedicated to the problem of development, the remaining 123 pages centered around one task alone: Population control should be obtained using any means and it is the fundamental lever for sustainable growth, the nature of which was just hinted at by those who drew up the document. As far as we were concerned, we tried to point out that the development of two-thirds of the world population, and the improvement of their living conditions, depend not only and that much on birth control, but on the possibility of investing in agriculture, health, education. And in this "battle" for justice we certainly did not remain isolated. Our principal intent on abortion was already known to all at the opening of the conference: clearing up without a shadow of a doubt that in no way can abortion be viewed as a means of family planning. This was cleared up and we took note of this with great satisfaction. But let me add, however, that the time dedicated to the discussion of this very delicate issue was by no means "wasted" because nothing is more important than the right to live.

[De Giovannangeli] The clash in this conference did not even spare the commas in the preparatory document. But looking at all that took place in Cairo in these days and in the role played by the Holy See, what is the thing that you pride yourself the most on?

[Navarro Valls] That of having contributed to the effort to clarify the language used by those that drew up the document: a language that was deliberately ambiguous on several points, that was used to hide concepts which would have otherwise given rise to a confrontation on the truth, which were perhaps been inconvenient for some but necessary for the successful outcome of this conference. However, we are proud about something that is much more important: that of having succeeded in introducing into the discussion the issue that values and the ethical dimension as well as the religious one must guide social development and economic growth at a worldwide level. "Growth" cannot be measured only in terms of quantity or be inspired by an unrestrained consumerism that "burns" everything from the environment to the most intimate sphere of life, that of love and sexuality. The rich countries can and must help the poorer countries with a great rush of solidarity, but not because of this should they feel that they have the right to impose their own concept of life or their own model of society. In this conference we tried to make ourselves heard on the issues of solidarity, of listening to each other, and a respect for the various cultural and religious identities that met in Cairo.

[De Giovannangeli] What was the outcome?

[Navarro Valls] Undoubtedly encouraging, especially if we look at the previous UN conferences. Of course, the encounter was difficult, sometimes harsh, but it never stooped, as it did in the past, to personal attacks. Over and beyond the possible reservations over some aspects of the final document, this underlying positive fact remains, and from which the joint "path of hope" can be taken up again.

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